MARVEL MASTERWORKS®

THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN®

VOLUME 2

THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN Nos. 16-31

BILL MANTLO, SAL BUSCEMA & JIM MOONEY

WITH FRANK MILLER

MARVEL

MARVEL MASTERWORKS

PRESENTS

THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN

VOLUME 2

COLLECTING

THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN NOS. 16-31

BILL MANTLO

SAL BUSCEMA • JIM MOONEY

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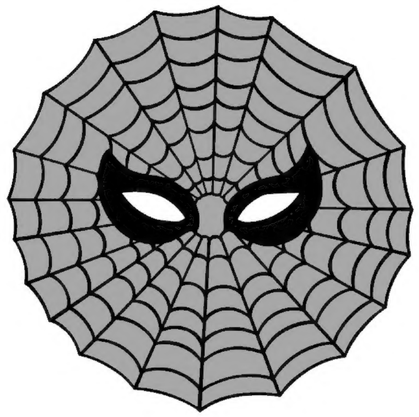

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TWO SHELVES
BY MARC GUGGENHEIM

I'm writing this from my home office, my Walt Disney desk facing a floor-to-ceiling matrix of 34 bookshelves. I'm staring at two of them. One is lined with the *Marvel Masterworks* I've been collecting since 1987 (all with the original design embossed and marbleized dustjackets, naturally). The one directly below it is dedicated to a variety of other hardcover Marvel publications. Among them one finds works by comic book legend Bill Mantlo: *The Contest of Champions*, *Cloak & Dagger: Child of Darkness, Child of Light*, *The Swords of the Swashbucklers*, and three volumes of *Micronauts*, which I paid to have hardbound because legalities frustratingly prevent their "official" collection (at least for now, one hopes).

Those two shelves testify to my love of the *Marvel Masterworks* line and the writing of Bill Mantlo.

Which is why it's my honor to write this introduction.

I also see it as my important responsibility.

(With great honor comes great responsibility? No, that doesn't sound quite right...)

I say "responsibility" because I don't want to see Bill's groundbreaking and illustrious body of work lost to the mists of time. As the passage of each new month and year—and decade—piles new layers of content over the sediment of past works, it's collections like the *Masterworks* line that keeps the older substrata at the forefront of our pop culture consciousness. They ensure that certain comics don't fade into obscurity or, worse, flea market back-issue bins unlikely to be unearthed again. In this particular case, they make sure that the name Mantlo is enshrined where it belongs: In the pantheon alongside Lee and Kirby and Ditko and Romita and Conway and Kane.

I'm not kidding.

In his long tenure, Bill Mantlo's writing touched every corner of the Marvel Universe. He wrote everything from the icons (Fantastic Four, the Avengers, Captain America, Hulk, Iron Man, Thor, Daredevil, the X-Men and, of course, Spider-Man) to the B-listers (Alpha Flight, the Vision and Scarlet Witch, the Defenders, the Champions, Ghost Rider, Power Man, Rawhide Kid, Jack of Hearts) to the obscure and unclassifiable (Howard the Duck, Human Fly). In fact, he wrote a story—*Contest of Champions*—which featured literally every super hero extant in the Marvel Universe at the time. As an added bonus, *Contest of Champions* also had the distinction of being Marvel's very first "limited series."

In addition, Bill stands uncontested as the Stan Lee of comic book licensed properties. His landmark runs on *Micronauts* and *ROM* bequeathed to the toys they were based on rich backstories and mythologies at a time when the term "world building" wasn't even spoken in whispers. In fact, given both toys' paucity of characters and story, it's not hyperbole to say that Bill—along with his artistic partners—*created* those two franchises. And Bill padded that record with work on other licensees such as *Battlestar Galactica*, *Man From Atlantis*, *John Carter: Warlord of Mars*, *Conan*, *Red Sonja*, *Tarzan*, *Transformers*, *Team America*, *Sectaurs*, and *Questprobe* (Google it).

But the true mark of any comics writer lies not in what threads of the tapestry they touched, but rather what threads they *added*. By that measure, consider Bill's creation, Cloak and Dagger, who

made their first appearance in the very pages of *Peter Parker: The Spectacular Spider-Man* #64. Consider Captain Universe. And how about White Tiger? The Soviet Super-Soldiers? The U-Foes? Bradley Cooper has Bill to thank for Rocket Raccoon. Indeed, we all do. And this list doesn't even scratch the surface of the dozens of different super villains who have been vexing Marvel's heroes for decades now.

In light of this remarkable oeuvre, it would not be unfair to say that the issues of *The Spectacular Spider-Man* collected in this volume could be considered "lesser works" in Bill's substantial canon. But it's a testament to Bill's remarkable productivity and creativity that even among these sixteen issues are fragments of comic book history.

To wit...

Issues #17 and #18 provide a proper closure to Marvel's ill-fated West Coast-based superteam, the Champions. Bill had written that group's final ten issues (because, of course he did) and one was left with the sense that the series' abrupt demise didn't afford him the chance to properly wrap up their story, so he wrote them a fitting coda here. (His *Champions* collaborator and fellow hall of famer John Byrne even provided the cover for the first of those two issues.)

The Champions story is also notable for Bill's collaboration with Sal Buscema, yet another titan of Marvel's Bronze Age, who would go on to collaborate with Bill on two seminal runs on *The Incredible Hulk* and *ROM*. I'm tempted to say that no other artist is as synonymous with Bill's Marvel work as Sal and you can see the glow of this burgeoning partnership even under David Hunt's admittedly heavy-handed inks.

Issues #22 and #23 featured a guest appearance by Moon Knight. Ordinarily, this wouldn't be anything worth noting—*Spectacular* enjoyed almost as many "guest stars" as Spidey's sister book, *Marvel Team-Up*—except for the fact that these two issues constitute only the third appearance of the character and, more importantly, were pivotal in reconceiving him as a hero rather than the villain he started out as. In other words, even when Bill wasn't creating characters whole cloth, he was helping shape them into the ones we know and love today.

Issue #24—entitled "Spider-Man Night Fever"—is notable for the first appearance of another Mantlo creation, the Hypno-Hustler, a villain who used hypnosis-inducing disco music to fleece nightclub patrons. (No, really.) Now, before you judge Bill too harshly, remember that this was the '70s and *Saturday Night Fever* had just come out the previous year. Plus, they can't all be gems, can they?

If the Hypno-Hustler was the nadir of Bill's creative contributions to Spider-Man, he more than redeemed himself in the very next issue, which introduced a potent new Spidey villain, a desiccated corpse of a man called Carrion who used the Black Death as a weapon. It's important to note that by this point in Spider-Man's history, coming up with antagonists who belonged in the same weight class as the Green Goblin was a formidable challenge. But in Carrion, Bill—aided and abetted by artist Jim Mooney—crafted a new villain as dangerous and visually arresting as the Goblin without tapping into the (at the time) played out Osborn legacy. Instead, (spoilers ahead) it was ultimately revealed that Carrion was the clone of the since-deceased Professor Miles Warren, the (literal) mad scientist who had cloned Peter Parker's former love, Gwen Stacy, and became the villain the Jackal.

Interestingly, that wasn't Bill's original plan.

No, Bill had originally intended Carrion to be the reanimated *clone* of Peter Parker, who the real Peter had thrown into a furnace at the open of *Amazing Spider-Man* #151. Longtime readers of

Spider-Man will instantly understand why I'm making this particular digression: *Bill thought to resurrect Peter Parker's clone a full twenty years before the now-infamous "Clone Saga."*

Such is the genius of Bill Mantlo. Even his changed and discarded ideas ultimately found purchase in the firmament of the Marvel Universe.

* * *

Continuing our trek down memory lane, we arrive at issues #27 and #28. Here I will digress from extolling Bill's writing to focus on the penciler he collaborated with for those issues. This artist first saw print at Marvel on a 17-page story in *John Carter: Warlord of Mars* #18 entitled "The Master Assassin of Mars, Part 3."

Hardly an auspicious start to the career of Frank Miller.

Yup. Frank made his mainstream Marvel debut working alongside Bill on these two issues of *Spectacular Spider-Man*.

And as providence would have it, those two issues happened to "guest star" a super hero who went by the name of Daredevil.

Yup again. Bill wrote Frank Miller's first work on the character with whom he would always remain synonymous.

End of digression.

* * *

In rereading these issues, it's tempting to view them as a mere collection of 1-3 issue stories without any overarching theme apart from the presence of Spider-Man and Bill's writing. But the truth is, there is a strong thread—a few, in fact—that tie these disparate issues together. In these stories, Bill is weaving a long-running plotline about the Maggia and its effect on New York City. For those of you not versed in the arcana of the Marvel Universe, "the Maggia" was a fictional crime syndicate that's been around since 1965 and was created by none other than Stan Lee, ostensibly to avoid referencing the real-life Sicilian Mafia.

In *Spectacular Spider-Man*, Bill used the Maggia to throw a cavalcade of villains at our web-headed protagonist. Carrion even "auditioned" for a job with the Maggia but was turned down by its leader, "the Big M," for fear Carrion would challenge his authority, thus instantly dramatizing what a formidable opponent the new-to-the-scene Carrion was. (In hindsight, Carrion seeking to become muscle for the mob makes a bit more sense in light of Bill's original intention that he was Peter Parker's clone as noted above.) The point is, by using the Maggia as a wellspring for the villains plaguing Spidey, Bill succeeded in linking a seemingly-random panoply of villains into a singular threat.

By having the Maggia create a rivulet of criminality threading through Manhattan, Bill lent the series a sense of ongoing danger. Whether he knew it or not, every month Spider-Man was fighting back a tide of criminal enterprise which threatened to engulf his home of New York City. The creeping danger ratcheted up the tension of every issue as Spidey fought back against a stealth antagonist who hid in the shadows.

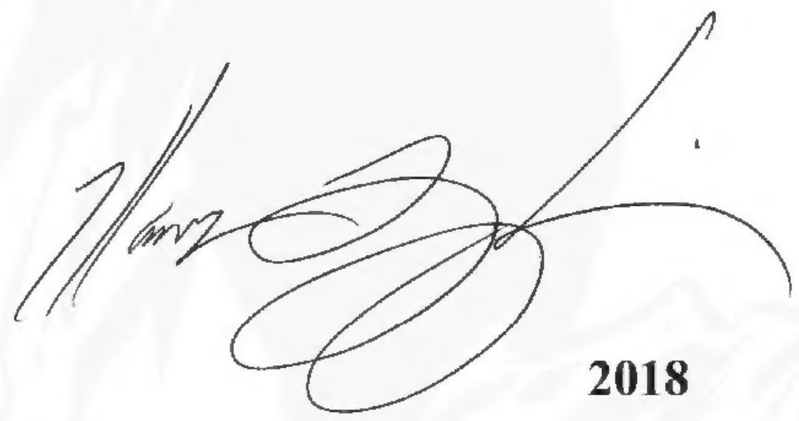
The Maggia motif also enhanced the feeling—omnipresent in the best Marvel stories—of New York City as a member of Spider-Man's supporting cast. The Maggia's activities, and the NYPD's ongoing efforts to stop them, gave Manhattan form and substance. After a few issues, the reader feels in a tangible way the city their hero is fighting to save.

And, of course, this being a Spider-Man comic, Peter's well-drawn personal life plays an important role. When Peter adheres to his bathroom ceiling soaking wet, his weight causes it to collapse, aggravating the ongoing tension between him and his crusty landlady, Mrs. Muggins. Heartsick over Mary Jane's rejection of his marriage proposal, Peter chastely flirts with his first love, Betty Brant, who continues to wrestle with her feelings for Ned Leeds. There's also Peter's struggles with failing to graduate from college—a move no doubt necessitated by the Spidey writers' desire to keep him a student as long as possible, even given the forgiving elasticity of comic book timelines.

Bill also offered the readers glimpses into the private lives of supporting players Hector Ayala and Flash Thompson. Hector's alter ego was White Tiger, another Mantlo creation (along with the legendary George Pérez) and was even mistaken by a super villain for being Spider-Man in a rather ingenious Mantlo-esque twist. As for Flash, the issues collected herein see him dating Sha Shan, the leader of a group of assassins who tried to kill Flash. No, really. (And to make matters even messier, Sha Shan would later dump Flash after she discovered he was cheating on her. The wisdom of cheating on someone with a coterie of assassins at her command is a subject for another introduction.)

The overall embroidery of these interwoven storylines—Maggia and Manhattan, soap opera and supporting characters—recalls the classic Stan Lee and Gerry Conway-written Spider-Man stories of the 1960s and early 70s. Ahead are quintessential Spider-Man depicted through the twin lenses of Bill's creative voice (White Tiger, Carrion) and unique sense of humor (e.g., the title of issue #25: "Carrion, My Wayward Son!") And although Bill also wrote for *Amazing Spider-Man* and *Marvel Team-Up* (because, of course he did), there should be little question that he made his mark on Spidey with his work on *Spectacular*. In fact, when he wasn't earning his well-deserved reputation as Marvel's "fill-in king," Bill became rightfully known for his epically-long runs on books like *The Incredible Hulk*. And Spider-Man was no exception. After the end of the issues collected in this volume, Bill would go on to write forty-one—41!—more issues plus two Annuals of *The Spectacular Spider-Man*.

I'm gonna need more shelves.



2018

Marc Guggenheim has notched writing credits across media from novels and television to comic books and film. He channeled his experience practicing law into writing for TV legal dramas and co-created the series Eli Stone. *Recently, he has guided the hit series* Arrow *and* Legends of Tomorrow *and won an Emmy for his writing on Netflix's* Trollhunters. *Guggenheim's comic book bonafides date back to a 1990 Marvel internship. He broke into comics in the early 2000s and has credits including* Wolverine, The Amazing Spider-Man, X-Men: Gold, *his creator-owned series* Resurrection *at Oni and a revival of Bill Mantlo and Butch Guice's* Swords of the Swashbucklers *at Dynamite.*

THE SPECTACULAR SPIDERMAN ®

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PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN®

THE BEETLE AND THE BADGE!

While attending a demonstration in radiology, student PETER PARKER was bitten by a spider which had accidentally been exposed to RADIOACTIVE RAYS. Through a miracle of science, Peter soon found that he had GAINED the arachnid's powers...and had, in effect, become a human spider...

Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN!

ELLIOT MAGGIN WRITER / SAL BUSCEMA & MIKE ESPOSITO ARTISTS / J. COSTANZA, letters P. RACHELSON, colors / A. GOODWIN EDITOR

A LOT HAS HAPPENED IN PETER PARKER'S LIFE LATELY.* A LOT MORE IS ABOUT TO HAPPEN.** BUT FOR THE MOMENT, THINGS ARE SO SLOW, HE'S DONNED MASK AND WEB-SHOOTERS TO SEARCH FOR EXCITEMENT. AND SUDDENLY, WITH A WILD SCREECH OF TIRES--

--HE'S FOUND IT!

KWAM!

THAT MOTOR-CYCLE COP IS ON TO SOMETHING-- YOU DON'T HANG A WILD U-TURN LIKE THAT FOR PRACTICE!

THE BEETLE and the BADGE!

* SEE LAST ISSUE AS A FOR INSTANCE--ARCHIE.

** CHECK OUT THIS MONTH'S AMAZING SPIDER-MAN --ARCH AGAIN.

OF COURSE, FOR ALL I *REALLY* KNOW, THE *DRIVER* OF THE CAR--

--DIDN'T DO ANY MORE THAN RUN A *RED LIGHT*...

...THEN AGAIN, HE COULD BE THE *HUMAN TORCH'S* CHARM TEACHER--

--AND WE CAN'T LET *THAT* GUY GET AWAY WITH *ANY-THING!*

NOW IF I CAN JUST HOOK ONTO THIS *SIDE-VIEW MIRROR* AND SLINK THROUGH THE *WINDOW*..

BUT AT THE EXACT MOMENT THE WALL-CRAWLER IS HOLDING ONTO THE CAR WITH ONLY HIS SINGLE LINE OF WEB-BING...

...THE MAN IN BLUE JOINS A GUTSY GAME OF CHICKEN WITH HIS QUARRY--

--AND THE CAR SWERVES EXACTLY THE WAY IT WASN'T SUPPOSED TO, PRODUCING THE MOST UNUSUAL SIGHT...

...OF A SPIDER LOSING HIS BALANCE--

HOPE MY FANS DIDN'T SEE THAT--

BOTH OF THEM WOULD BE APPALLED!

AS THE WEB-SPINNER DUSTS OFF HIS DIGNITY ON A CURBSIDE, THE CHASE CONTINUES TO THE WEST SIDE HIGHWAY--

--AS THE POLICEMAN TAKES ADVANTAGE OF HIS BIKE'S AGILITY...

I THINK WE *LOST* 'EM *BOTH!*

YEAH? THEN IT'S JUST *LUCK* THAT DID IT...

NOW SPIN THIS HEAP UP *RIVERSIDE DRIVE* TO THE *WAREHOUSE!* NOBODY'LL SEE US--

--THERE!!

NYPD

SKRAAM!

IF THE NEW YORK POLICE DEPARTMENT GAVE AN ANNUAL AWARD TO THE COP WHO CAME CLOSEST TO BEING *KILLED IN ACTION--*

--IT WOULD HAVE GONE TO OFFICER JOEY MACONE THE PAST *THREE YEARS* RUNNING...

BUT AS GLASS FLIES AND *METAL* CRUNCHES TOWARD IMPACT WITH THE *GERM STREAM* CALLED THE *HUDSON RIVER--*

--MACONE REALIZES THERE'S *NO CHANCE* HE'D BE ALIVE TO COLLECT HIS AWARD *THIS YEAR...*

NO CHANCE AT ALL...

THWIP!

THWUP!

...EXCEPT *ONE!*

AND WHEN THE NEXT EDITION OF THE DAILY BUGLE ROLLS OFF THE PRESSES...

HECKUVA PICTURE YOU GRABBED, PETE-- BET THIS FRONT PAGE'LL HAVE JAMESON HAPPY CLEAR UNTIL LUNCHTIME!

OUR POLICE REPORTER SAYS THERE WERE ENOUGH BAD TWENTIES IN THAT CAR'S TRUNK TO OPEN UP AN ANDREW JACKSON MUSEUM!

DAILY BUGLE

HERO COP NABS FLEEING COUNTERFEITERS

ROBERTSON!-- WHY DIDN'T WE HAVE A HEADLINE LIKE THIS YESTERDAY?

IT'S AN HOUR-AND-A-HALF TO LUNCHTIME... I SHOULD'VE TAKEN YOUR BET!

ALL I EVER SEE ON THIS PAGE IS SOME COSTUMED CRACKPOT LOOSENING UP HIS JOINTS...

IT'S ABOUT TIME WE HAD A HERO IN THIS TOWN WHO'S A REAL PERSON!

I WANT A FULL FOLLOW-UP ON THIS-- OFFICER MALONE!

UH... I THINK THE NAME IS MACONE, J.J.J.--

MACONE... MALONE... THE POINT IS HE'S HUMAN! AND WHY ARE YOU STILL HERE, PARKER? GET SOME PHOTOS OF MAZONE AT HOME!

RR

ED

YOU TALKED ME INTO IT, BENEVOLENT, LEADER!

DON'T CRACK WISE, JUST DO AS MUCH FOR A REAL HERO AS YOU DO FOR THOSE LONG-UNDERWEAR CLOWNS!

NINETEEN BLOCKS AND TWENTY-SEVEN MINUTES LATER, AT THE DOOR OF THE CITY'S NEWEST HERO...

APT 5B

KNOCK KNOK

I SAID I'D RATHER BE A DIVORCEE THAN A WIDOW-- AND I MEANT IT!

UH-UH! EITHER SOMEONE'S WATCHING "AS THE WORLD TURNS"-- OR I'M BUTTING INTO A TOUCH OF FAMILY STRIFE!

AND WITHIN THE MACONE HOUSEHOLD, A TV SET IS DEFINITELY NOT PLAYING...

SURE I WAS PROUD WHEN YOU BROUGHT IN THAT LITTLE GIRL'S KILLER... AND WHEN YOU SINGLE-HANDEDLY CAPTURED THOSE SMUGGLERS...

...AND TODAY! BUT I WON'T BE PROUD WHEN YOUR HEROICS GET YOU KILLED, JOE! AND I WON'T SPEND MY LIFE JUST WAITING FOR THAT TO HAPPEN!

NOT NOW, MARY ANN-- SOMEONE'S KNOCKING!

HI, I'M PETER PARKER FROM THE BUGLE! HOPE I'M NOT INTERRUPTING YOU, MR. MACONE, BUT--

NAH, I HAD TO GET UP TO ANSWER THE DOOR ANYWAY!

THEY PROBABLY CALLED YOU FROM THE PAPER TO SAY I'D BE HERE, RIGHT?

YEAH, I GUESS THEY DID. I SUPPOSE YOU WANT US TO STAND SOME PLACE AND LOOK CONTENTED?

IT DOES NOT TAKE LONG FOR THE YOUNG SHUTTERBUG TO DECIDE HE'D RATHER BE HANGING FROM A HELICOPTER SHOOTING A SMOLDERING VOLCANO...

...WHICH IS ABOUT WHERE HE FEELS HE IS NOW... DANGLING OVER A DISASTER, HOPING HE CAN LEAVE BEFORE IT BLOWS--

THAT'S IT, JUST ACT NATURAL. A GOOD GRUFF LOOK FOR THE LAST SHOT--TOUGH, NO-NONSENSE DEFENDER OF THE LAW, RIGHT?

MAYBE NOT. SOME PEOPLE THINK COPS SHOULD BE COWARDS!

HOO BOY! THE ATMOSPHERE HERE IS THICK ENOUGH TO CHOKE ON!

BUT, AT LAST, THE SESSION DOES END...

WHEW!

I NEVER REALIZED THE KIND OF PRESSURES COPS AND THEIR FAMILIES HAD GOING!

BUT NOT ALL POLICEMEN GO THROUGH WHAT JOE MACONE HAS. FOR INSTANCE, TAKE THIS GENTLEMAN IN THE FAMILIAR BLUE UNIFORM STROLLING A DOWNTOWN STREET...

...TO A BUILDING THAT IS DECIDEDLY NOT A POLICE STATION...

...IN ANSWER TO A SUMMONS FROM SOMEONE WHO IS NOT A PROTECTOR OF SOCIETY...

GOT IT, CHIEF!

AND ABOUT TIME, TOO! ...COME IN--

IT'S IN THE EVIDENCE REPOSITORY AT THE MIDTOWN WEST PRECINCT... I GOT IN ON A PRETEXT, BUT COULDN'T CHECK IT OUT!

OF COURSE... YOU HAD NO VALID IDENTIFICATION! I WAS AFRAID OF THAT--

--IT'S GOING TO TAKE MY ENTIRE STAKE TO HIRE ENOUGH DIVERSIONS TO EMPTY THAT PRECINCT HOUSE...

...BUT THE BEETLE HAS ALWAYS GONE IN STYLE BEFORE!

I SEE NO REASON TO CHANGE MY WAYS NOW!

ATTENTION! PREPARE TO PUT CONTINGENCY PLAN INTO OPERATION--

"--AT PRECISELY NOON TODAY!"

JEWE

BANK

THE AFTERNOON EDITION OF THE BUGLE GOES TO PRESS JUST MINUTES TOO SOON TO INCLUDE A STORY OF AN APPARENTLY SPONTANEOUS CRIME EXPLOSION CENTERED IN THE MID-TOWN WEST PRECINCT OF THE CITY.

AMOND'S

NYPD

REPORTS FLOOD IN OF JEWEL THEFTS AND BANK ROBBERIES--

--ARSON AND STREET HOLDUPS!

NEW YORK'S FINEST ARE ALL DISPATCHED TO THE SIZZLING STREETS...

...EXCEPT FOR ONE--

YOU'VE HAD ENOUGH EXCITEMENT FOR AWHILE, MACONE... HOW ABOUT MANNING THE COMMUNICATIONS BOARD?

BEEN TALKING TO MY WIFE, HUH?

MY WIFE'S BEEN TALKING TO YOUR WIFE--

--AND ALL THREE OF US THINK YOU COULD USE SOME REST.'

MID TOWN WEST NYPD

NYPD

N.Y

MY SPIDER SENSE DIDN'T HAVE TO TELL ME SOMETHING'S GOING ON HERE... THE SIRENS DID THAT--

--BUT *EITHER* SIGNAL IS ENOUGH OF AN EXCUSE TO THINK THERE'S *ROOM* IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD--

--FOR A CERTAIN WALL-CRAWLING, WEB-SLINGING *SPIDER-MAN!*

AND AS OUR HERO SWINGS OVER CITY STREETS TOWARD THE SOUNDS OF TRAFFIC IN TURMOIL, WHICH INDICATE BIG PROBLEMS...

SUDDENLY, MY *SPIDER-SENSE* IS DOING A *DISCO NUMBER* ON MY CENTRAL *NERVOUS SYSTEM--*

--LIKE THERE'S TROUBLE BACK WHERE I *LEFT* AS WELL!

MAYBE--

--BUT RIGHT *NOW*, THOSE OLD STAND-BYS, *SIGHT* AND *HEARING* HAVE ZEROED-IN ON SOMETHING MUCH MORE *DEFINITE!*

GUNMEN! TRYING TO TAKEOVER THAT *BUS!*

ALL RIGHT, FELLA! DRIVE WHERE I *TELL* YA--

BUT FIRST OPEN UP THAT *TOKEN BOX* LIKE A GOOD BOY!

I--I CAN'T *DO* IT... WE AREN'T ISSUED *KEYS!* P-PLEASE...

NO *SWEAT*, DRIVER!

TRASH

HE'S ON THE *WRONG BUS* ANYWAY--

THE ONE HE AND HIS *PALS* WANTS GOES STRAIGHT TO *SING-SING!*

BUT BACK AT THE STATION HOUSE SPIDEY LEFT BEHIND... A SET OF SUPER-STRONG SUCTION CUPS PULL A WINDOW SILENTLY FROM ITS PERCH...

...AND AN ARMOR-WINGED FIGURE CREEPS IN...

THE WAY I FIGURED IT... THERE WILL BE THREE COPS LEFT IN THE BUILDING AT MOST--

--BUT THERE'S PROBABLY ONLY ONE...

...THE ONE BEHIND THIS WALL!

AND ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WALL A DESK SERGEANT HEARS AN ODD SOUND...

WH-WHAT...? EITHER I'M GETTING SPOOKED BECAUSE THE BUILDING'S EMPTY...

...OR WE HAVE MICE IN THE WALLS!

BUT THE SERGEANT DOESN'T GET TO FINISH THOSE THOUGHTS... FOR WHAT SLAMS HIM INTO UNCONSCIOUSNESS IS NEITHER "SPOOK" NOR "MOUSE..."

...BUT A BEETLE, WITH HYDRAULICALLY-POWERED APPENDAGES!

AND THIS SOUND REACHES WARIER EARS... THOSE OF JOE MACONE!

THAT'S GOTTA BE BAD NEWS!

MEANWHILE, A BLOCK AWAY, THE WEB-SLINGER DOESN'T WAIT AROUND LONG ENOUGH FOR MACONE'S COLLEAGUES...

...TO DECIDE WHETHER THEY SHOULD THANK HIM OR ARREST HIM.

I'D BETTER BE GOING THIS WAY FAST...

...AND FIND OUT WHAT HAD MY SPIDEY-SENSE IN AN UPROAR BEFORE I RE-ROUTED THOSE BUS-KNAPPERS!

MEANWHILE, UNAWARE OF ANY **REINFORCEMENTS** ON THE WAY, OFFICER MACONE THINKS **FAST**...

CAN'T BE **COINCIDENCE**! ALL THOSE CRIMES EMPTY **OUT** THE PRECINCT HOUSE... AND **NOW** SOMEONE IS BREAKING **IN**!

IT **HAS** TO HAVE BEEN **PLANNED** THAT WAY...

SOMEBODY WITH POWER **AND** INFLUENCE WANTS **SOMETHING** WE'VE GOT.

AND THE ONLY "**SOMETHINGS**" OF **VALUE** WE'VE GOT ARE IN **HERE**! THE STUFF WE HOLD AS **EVIDENCE**!

SOUND I HEARD WAS A **WALL** BREAKING! ANYONE **STRONG** ENOUGH TO DO THAT CAN **TAKE** ME...

MATERIALS EVIDENCE ROOM AUTHORIZE PERSONNEL O

...UNLESS HE CAN'T **FIND** ME!

WHA-KOW

CLEARLY, THIS HULKING, LUMBERING MASS OF **ARMOR** AND **ENERGY** KNOWS WHERE HE'S HEADING...

...AND **MACONE** DOESN'T HAVE TO BE **VERY** QUIET NOT TO BE HEARD OVER THE BEETLE'S THUNDEROUS **STEPS**...

WHAT'S HE WANT? **JEWELS... DRUGS... WEAPONS?**

BUT THE INSIDIOUS INVADER TOSSES **ASIDE** SUCH TREASURE... UNTIL HE REACHES A HARMLESS-LOOKING **ATTACHÉ CASE**...

AT LAST!

ALL THE EFFORT... ALL THE EXPENSE... **PAYS OFF!**

AND JOE MACONE SILENTLY CRANES TO SEE THAT THAT PAY-OFF IS...

...PENCILS, PADS AND ENVELOPES?!

AH! EVERYTHING JUST AS IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE...

NOT QUITE, HELMET HEAD--

UNLESS YOU WERE COUNTING ON MY SPIDER-SENSE TO LEAD ME HERE TO BREAK UP YOUR ACT!

I THOUGHT THERE'D BE ENOUGH GOING ON OUTSIDE TO KEEP EVEN YOU OCCUPIED, WALL-CRAWLER! BUT SINCE THAT ISN'T THE CASE--

SMASH!

BRAK!

--I'M FULLY CAPABLE OF HANDLING YOU MYSELF!

NOT IF YOU TELEGRAPH YOUR PUNCHES, BEETLE!

WRAM!

BUT WHY SHOULD I GIVE YOU HELPFUL HINTS--?

THWIP!

--ESPECIALLY SINCE YOU'RE GOING TO BE TOO *TIED UP* TO TAKE *ADVANTAGE* OF THEM!

PLIP!

FOOL! HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THE *FULL STRENGTH* OF MY COSTUME'S *POWER*?!

SHRIP!

NO... BUT I'D *LIKE* TO--

DO YOU HAVE ANY *IDEA* WHAT THAT WEBBING *COSTS* ME?

SAVE YOUR *JOKES*, BUFFOON--!

WAM!

:UUHHH!:

YOU'LL NEED ALL YOUR WIT-TICISMS ONCE MY EXTENDABLE *SUCTION-FEELERS* HAVE POUNDED YOU INTO *PULP!*

I TAKE CARE OF MY *AUNT MAY*... GIVE MY FRIENDS *PRESENTS* ON *CHRIST-MAS*...

...SO *WHY* DO I GET *INTO* SITUATIONS LIKE THIS?!

BUT SOMEONE ELSE IN THE ROOM HAS MORE REASON TO WONDER HOW HE GOT CAUGHT IN THIS CHAOS...

BLAST IT! I'M NOT THE KIND OF GUY WHO CAN JUST DUCK AND *WATCH* SOMETHING LIKE THIS!

THIS BRAWL LOOKS LIKE IT COULD GO *EITHER* WAY--

--BUT *ONLY* IF SPIDEY GETS *UP* IN THE NEXT *HALF-SECOND!*

HE DOESN'T... BUT HE DOES ROLL. AND THEN --

BRA-KOW!

--LEAP!

NOW WHO'S FORGETFUL, BEETS? SINCE WHEN DID ONE PUNCH EVER PUT ME OUT OF A FIGHT.?!

OF COURSE I'M STILL HURTING FROM IT... BUT WHY BLAB EVERY-THING?

WHUMP!

WA-LOM!

MAYBE IF I BURY US AMID THESE SHELVES, HE WON'T HAVE ROOM TO OPERATE--

--AND I'LL GET THE BREATHER I NEED TO GET BACK INTO ACTION!

THAT CANNISTER OF EVIDENCE THEY SENT FLYING--!

IT WAS FILLED WITH PACKETS OF... HEROIN!

SPIDER-MAN LOOKED MORE HURT THEN HE WAS LETTING ON--!

COULD BE I'VE GOT A WAY TO DO HIM SOME GOOD!

IT'S WORTH A *TRY!* THOSE TWO ARE TOO *BUSY* TO NOTICE *ME...*

...NOT THAT *THAT* WOULD *STOP* ME! *FACE* IT, MACONE--

--YOU *LOVE* GETTING INTO THE ACTION!

EVEN IF IT'S AT A *WATER-COOLER!*

BUT WHERE *ELSE* CAN I MIX THIS SPECIAL RECIPE OF *H2O* AND *HORSE?!* AND *PRESTO!* INSTANT...

...STICKY, GLOPPY *PASTE!*

AND NOW TO *USE* IT WHERE IT'LL DO THE MOST *GOOD!*

JOE MACONE... BEHIND THE *BEETLE!* DUNNO WHERE HE CAME FROM, BUT IF I DON'T PROVIDE ENOUGH *DISTRACTION...*

BA-DUM!

NO! IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S GOING TO...

THIS WAY, BUG MAN! LOOK THIS WAY!!

JOE! FOR GOD'S SAKE, YOU DON'T *KNOW* WHAT YOU'RE GET-TING *INTO--!*

DON'T I, WALL-CRAWLER? JUST WATCH!

HERE, BEETLE! SHOVE *THIS* UP YOUR *SUCTION CUPS...* AND *STICK 'EM!*

W-WHAT--? WHO DARES--?!

AWAY, YOU MEDDLING DOLT!

SHA-

WAK!

IT WILL TAKE *FAR MORE* THAN *YOUR* FEEBLE EFFORT TO *GUM* MY COSTUME'S *HYDRAULIC SYSTEM!*

BUT IT'S THE *RIGHT* IDEA--!

AND *RECKLESS GAMBLE* THOUGH IT WAS... *I'VE* GOT TO MAKE IT *PAY OFF* NOW THAT MACONE'S SHOWN THE *WAY!*

GOT TO GET THESE *WEB FLUID CARTRIDGES* OFF BEFORE--

THE FOOL WAS *PRACTICE*, ARACHNID... YOU'RE *NEXT!*

YOU'RE *OVER-EAGER*, BRIGHT EYES! AND *THAT*--

--COMBINED WITH THE *HEAVY ARMOR* IS GOING TO *TRIP YOU UP!*

WAK!

SEE...?

AND HERE'S SOMETHING *STRONGER* THAN WATERED *SMACK*--

--TO GIVE YOU *TERMINAL STICKY FINGERS!*

BLAM!

WRONG, *PEST!*

CHUD!

YOUR EFFORT HAS *FAILED*... JUST LIKE THAT *OTHER* SIMPLETON'S!

HAS IT, GOGGLE EYES?

THAT WAS A *KICK* YOU NAILED ME WITH WHILE I WAS *BUSY*--

--*POURING* THAT WEB-FLUID WHICH OUGHT TO BE *DRYING* BY NOW!

M-MY *FEELERS!* THEY'RE *JAMMING*...REFUSING TO *RESPOND!*

YEAH! AND WITHOUT *THEM*--

--*YOU'RE* NOT *BUGGIN'* *ANYONE!*

PA-DOW!

THAT ONE PUNCH DOESN'T *END* THE FIGHT...

...*BUT IT ESTABLISHES A TREND AND MAKES THE OUTCOME INEVITABLE!*

S-SPIDER-MAN...! DID... WE... *WIN*...?

MACONE! IF *YOU'RE* ALL RIGHT... I GUESS WE *DID.*

BUT I WONDER IF HIS *WIFE'S* GONNA THINK SO...?

DO YOU NEED A *DOCTOR,* FELLA?!

MAYBE A WHOLE *HOSPITAL*...! BUT WHILE YOU WERE *FIGHTING,* SPIDEY, I CHECKED OUT THAT *BRIEFCASE* THE BEETLE WAS AFTER--

--AND I *KNOW* WHY HE *WANTED* IT SO BADLY!

SO WORDS FLOW, DAYS PASS, BROKEN BONES BEGIN TO KNIT, AND AT A SPECIAL POLICE DEPARTMENT CEREMONY...

...AND I WOULD LIKE OUR NEWEST POLICE DETECTIVE TO DEMONSTRATE HIS DISCOVERY HIMSELF--

THE COMMISSIONER IS PROUD ENOUGH TO BURST--

--BUT JOE SURE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE!

AND THERE'S HIS LADY, MARY ANN, LOOKING JUST AS GRIM!

SHE SAID SHE'D LEAVE HIM IF HE KEPT RISKING HIS LIFE WITH MORE HEROICS. BUT SURELY...

DETECTIVE MACONE...?

THE BRIEFCASE THE BEETLE WAS AFTER WAS EVIDENCE--

--STOLEN AT AN AIRPORT FROM A BUSINESSMAN WHO DIED SOON AFTER-WARDS!

INVESTIGATION HAS UNCOVERED THAT THIS BUSINESSMAN WAS ACTUALLY A COURIER FOR THE CRIME SYNDICATE.

NOTHING IN THE BRIEFCASE SEEMED OF ANY VALUE. BUT--

--DURING SPIDER-MAN'S BATTLE WITH THE PERPETRATOR--

--I DISCOVERED A FALSE BOTTOM AND THIS...

...A COOL MILLION IN EASY-TO-STEAL, CAREFULLY-LAUN-DERED CASH!

THERE IS APPLAUSE, MORE WORDS FROM THE COMMISSIONER... BUT MARY ANN MACONE DOESN'T STAY. THAT'S NEWS, HUMAN INTEREST...

...AND A PHOTO PETER PARKER COULD SELL.

BUT SOMEHOW THE DAILY BUGLE PHOTOGRAPHER CANNOT BRING HIMSELF TO SNAP THE SHUTTER.

BECAUSE, A PETER PARKER KNOWS TOO WELL...

...THERE ARE PROBLEMS EVEN HEROES CANNOT SOLVE.

NEXT: THE ANGEL, THE ICEMAN, and the... END OF A SUPER-TEAM!

THE SPECTACULAR SPIDERMAN ®

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PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN®

NO, WALL-CRAWLER! I CAN'T LET YOU FIGHT HIM--NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS!

YOU'RE NUTS, ANGEL! HE MEANS TO WASTE US BOTH--

--AND HE'S GOT THE POWER TO DO IT!

TO THE LAST CHAMPION!

J.B. JR.

While attending a demonstration in radiology, student PETER PARKER was bitten by a spider which had accidentally been exposed to RADIOACTIVE RAYS. Through a miracle of science, Peter soon found that he had GAINED the arachnid's powers...and had, in effect, become a human spider...

STAN LEE PRESENTS: THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN!

BILL MANTLO WRITER * SAL BUSCEMA & DAVID HUNT ARTISTS * BRUCE-LETTERER JANICE-COLORIST * ARCHIE GOODWIN EDITOR

8:35 AM-- NEW YORK TIME...

OUR WEB-SLINGING HERO RACES MADLY ACROSS TOWN, CAMERA AND CLOTHES IN A WEB-SACK SLUNG AT HIS BACK, TOWARDS KENNEDY AIRPORT!

THE DAILY BUGLE BOOKED HIM ON A 9 O'CLOCK FLIGHT-- AND HE OVER-SLEPT!

10:00 AM-- LOS ANGELES TIME...

BLEARY-EYED AND SUFFERING FROM JET-LAG, PETER PARKER SQUINTS IN THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SUN-LIGHT AND TRIES NOT TO BREATHE THE AIR! HE'S ARRIVED.

PALM TREES AND EIGHTY DEGREES IN JANUARY?! I'M GOING TO COME DOWN WITH A COLD-- I CAN FEEL IT!

I SHOULD BE HOME-- STUDYING FOR MY MID-TERMS! BUT I COULDN'T TURN DOWN THE MONEY JJJ'S PAYING FOR THIS JOB...

NOT WITH AUNT MAY IN THE HOSPITAL!

CHAMPIONS BUILDING FOR SALE OR RENT INQUIRE WITHIN

BESIDES, HOW MANY PHOTOGRAPHERS GET TO DOCUMENT THE END OF A SUPER-GROUP?

NOT MANY, MR. PARKER! BUT THE REAL STORY BEFORE THIS DAY IS OUT WILL BE...

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THE ICEMAN?

C-646

STILL NOT QUITE AWAKE, PETER FAILS TO OVERHEAR THE CONVERSATION OF TWO SECURITY GUARDS ON THE PLAZA BEHIND HIM...

CRIPES! A GUY COULD GET A STIFF NECK AT THIS JOB!

IF WE SAVE EVEN ONE LIFE WHILE THEY'RE BOARDING THIS BUILDING UP-- IT'S WORTH IT!

NOW CHECK THE FIFTEENTH FLOOR AGAIN...

DAVIS! SOUTH SIDE OFFICES! TWO WINDOWS!

I SEE 'EM-- AND RIGHT OVER THE PLAZA! LORD, ONLY EIGHT SECONDS--

"--FROM THE TIME THEY BEGIN TO CRACK AS THEY POP FROM THEIR FRAMES--

KERRRRRRRRRRRRRRRAAAAAAAAAAAAAKKKKKKKKKKKKK

"--TO THE TIME THEY SHATTER ON THE PAVEMENT!"

FALL THEY DO, LIKE LEAVES IN A WIND-- THOUGH EACH PANE WEIGHS HUNDREDS OF POUNDS!

ONE CRITICAL SECOND PASSES BEFORE THE MESMERIZED GUARDS CAN REACT...

F-FOR THE LOVE OF HEAVEN!

CLEAR THE PLAZA! RUN!

B-BUT, WHICH WAY? THERE'S NO TELLING WHERE THEY'LL HIT!

AND STILL PETER PARKER, LOST IN HIS THOUGHTS, DOESN'T HEAR!

TWO SECONDS GONE, WHEN A COLORFUL FIGURE APPEARS AT THE NOW-WINDOWLESS WINDOW...

NO! IT--IT'S HAPPENING AGAIN!

HALF A SECOND TO SLIP THE RESTRAINING HARNESS ABOUT HIS CHEST...

GOOD THING I HADN'T FINISHED DRESSING IN MY CIVVIES! SHEDDING THIS GADGET TAKES LONG ENOUGH!

ANOTHER HALF-SECOND FOR MIGHTY WINGS TO SPREAD...

AND, WITH BUT FIVE SECONDS TO GO--

--WARREN WORTHINGTON III SWOOPS DOWN FROM THE FIFTEENTH FLOOR OF THE CHAMPIONS BUILDING--

--IN A BREATH-TAKING RACE AGAINST DEATH!

AND IT IS CLEAR TO THE AWESTRUCK ONLOOKERS WHY MEN HAVE NAMED HIM... THE AVENGING ANGEL!

FOUR SECONDS!

I'VE GOT A FEW MINUTES TO KILL! GUESS I'LL TAKE SOME SHOTS OF THE PLAZA!

IT--IT'S VEERING THIS WAY! TOWARDS THAT KID WITH THE CAMERA!

KID! YOU GOT A DEATH WISH? WAKE UP!

THREE SECONDS!

CAUGHT ONE!

IT'S TOO HEAVY--FALLING TOO FAST! I CAN'T HOLD IT!

BUT I DON'T HAVE TO! NOT IF I CAN USE ITS OWN MOMENTUM TO FLIP IT--

--HURLING IT UP OVER THE CITY TO WHERE I CAN--

--DROP IT IN SANTA MONICA BAY!

SPLASH!

TWO SECONDS!

HUH--??

HOLY CROW!

ONE SECOND!

DONE! BUT THERE'S NO WAY I CAN REACH THE SECOND PANE BEFORE IT HITS THAT KID!

HE MUST BE ROOTED WITH FEAR-- TOO SCARED TO RUN!

HE'S DOOMED!

NO, ANGEL! JUST TENSING HIS POWERFUL LEG-MUSCLES--

--AS HE GETS READY TO LEAP!!

GOT TO MOVE--

--NOW!

KRASH!

KID--ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!

IF I STILL HEAR YOUR VOICE--I MUST BE!

IT'S A MIRACLE, THEN! I COULDN'T SEE YOU THROUGH THE SHATTERING GLASS--

WHEN I COVERED MY EYES TO SHIELD AGAINST THE FLYING FRAGMENTS, I THOUGHT YOU WERE A GONER, FELLA!

YOU'RE LUCKY TO BE ALIVE!

ER--YES! I GUESS I AM, AT THAT!

--BUT IT MUST'VE MISSED YOU BY JUST INCHES!

WELL, IF EVERYTHING'S UNDER CONTROL HERE, I'M EXPECTING A PHOTOGRAPHER FROM NEW YORK, SO...

HUH? HEY--YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT ME! I'M PETER PARKER! I WAS KILLING TIME WAITING, WHEN--

WHEN TIME ALMOST KILLED YOU, FRIEND!

UH, RIGHT! ANYWAY, THE DAILY BUGLE SENT ME HERE TO PHOTOGRAPH THE BREAK-UP OF THE CHAMPIONS!

WHAT?! DIDN'T YOUR WEST-COAST REPORTER GET THE NEWS TO NEW YORK BEFORE YOU LEFT?

WH--WHAT NEWS?

YOU'RE TOO LATE! THE CHAMPS ARE ALREADY GONE! I'M THE ONLY ONE LEFT! ME--

--AND THAT MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR CONTRACTOR'S NIGHTMARE!

BUT COME ON IN! MAYBE YOU CAN TAKE SOME SHOTS OF ME OR THE BUILDING SO YOUR TRIP WON'T HAVE BEEN A TOTAL WASTE!

OKAY! JUST LET ME GET MY--

--OH, NO!!

SWELL! I MUST'VE DROPPED IT DODGING THE GLASS! THE OLD PARKER LUCK IS RUNNING TRUE TO FORM!

LOOK, PETE-- MOST OF MY MONEY MAY BE TIED UP IN A THIRTY-STORY TURKEY--

--BUT THE WORTHINGTON FORTUNE CAN STILL AFFORD TO REPLACE A BUSTED CAMERA!

AND SO...

WARREN, THIS IS THE KIND OF EQUIPMENT A SHUTTERBUG DREAMS OF! THANKS!

FORGET IT! IT WAS THE LEAST I COULD DO AFTER MY BUILDING ALMOST KILLED YOU! YEAH-- I FEEL RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS ARCHITECTURAL MISTAKE!

IT WAS MY IDEA-- BUILT WITH MY MONEY! THE PLANS WERE GREAT-- DESIGNED BY STARK-WEST ARCHITECTS! BUT THE BUILDERS USED SHODDY MATERIALS! NOTHING WORKS!

NOT EVEN THE GROUP I BUILT THE PLACE FOR! NO-- THE CHAMPIONS DIDN'T WORK, EITHER!

I ALREADY GAVE THE STORY TO YOUR PAPER'S REPORTER-- BUT YOU CAN HEAR IT, TOO!

"WE'D JUST DEFEATED A GROUP OF **PSEUDO-SENTINELS** THROWN AT US BY A BAND OF **EVIL MUTANTS**-- *

"--WHEN I **SAID** WHAT WAS ON EVERYONE **ELSE'S MIND!**"

THEY GOT THROUGH **ALL** OUR **DEFENSES!** NOTHING **WORKED!**

NOTHING **HAS**-- NOT SINCE THE DAY THIS PLACE WAS **BUILT!**

TRULY, 'TIS AS IF THIS VERY **BUILDING** WERE OUR **FOE!**

YES! AND WE SPEND ALL OUR TIME **DE-FENDING** IT!

*CHAMPIONS #17--ARCHIE.

I HAVE GROWN **TIRED** OF FIGHTING FOR THIS PILE OF **BRICKS!** BESIDES-- **NONE** OF YOU **WANT** ME HERE!

JOHNNY-- **GHOST RIDER!** THAT'S NOT **TRUE...**

NAY, WIDOW! PERHAPS 'TIS **BEST** THAT THE DEMON **GO!**

IT--IT'S **MY** FAULT! AS **TEAM LEADER**, I SHOULD HAVE...

THERE WAS **NOTHING** YOU COULD HAVE DONE, MADAME NATASHA! WE ARE TOO **DISPARATE** A GROUP TO REMAIN **UNITED** FOR LONG!

LAYNIA! WHAT ARE YOU **SAYING?!**

THAT I HAVE **TRIED** TO **BELONG** HERE, BOBBY--BUT THAT I CAN **STAY** NO LONGER! I WISH TO GO **HOME**--TO MY **PEOPLE**... TO **RUSSIA!**

B-BUT, I **LOVE** YOU! YOU **CAN'T**--!

I **MUST**, BOBBY! I--I AM **SORRY**. THOUGH I **LIKE** YOU-- IT HAS NEVER BEEN **MORE** THAN THAT!

FAREWELL, MY DEAR FRIENDS! YOU HAVE BEEN **KIND** TO DARKSTAR!

LAYNIA!!

TAKE IT **EASY**, KID! YOU'RE JUST TEARING YOUR-SELF **APART!**

FLAP OFF, DADDY WARBUCKS!

WHEN I WANT YOUR ADVICE, I'LL ASK FOR IT!

BOBBY--!

THIS GROUP MEANS NOTHING TO ME WITHOUT LAYNIA! I'M CUTTING OUT-- AND TEARING THE "C" OFF MY BELT THE FIRST CHANCE I GET!

FROM NOW ON, PEOPLE-- ICEMAN GOES IT ALONE!

"ICEMAN AND I HAD BEEN TWO OF THE ORIGINAL X-MEN! WE'D CO-FOUNDED THE CHAMPIONS!

"IF HE WAS PULLING OUT, WHAT COULD I EXPECT FROM..."

HERCULES? BLACK WIDOW??

AYE, WINGED ONE! THOU HAST GUESSED TRUE!

TOO LONG HATH MY SOUL CHAFED FOR FREEDOM! I WISH TO SEE THIS MORTAL EARTH-- TO ROAM IT AS THE MAN-GOD I AM!

AND I WISH TO GO WITH HIM, WARREN-- FOR A TIME, AT LEAST!

I--I'M AFRAID THE CHAMPIONS ARE... FINISHED!

GO, THEN! GET OUT! ALL OF YOU! BUT I'M NOT GOING! I STARTED THIS, AND I'LL SEE IT THROUGH!

YOU CAN WALK OFF-- BUT THE WORLD STILL NEEDS CHAMPIONS!

THAT WAS TWO WEEKS AGO! * SINCE THEN, I'VE DISCOVERED THAT THE WORLD DOES JUST FINE WITHOUT US!

I'M JUST STICKING AROUND UNTIL A BUYER OR AN EARTHQUAKE TAKES THIS MAUSOLEUM OFF MY HANDS!

WHAT'S HAPPENED TO THE REST OF THE CHAMPS?

GHOST RIDER BIKED OFF SOMEWHERE.** DARKSTAR WENT HOME!

*NATURALLY, IN RELATING HIS TALE, THE ANGEL HAS AVOIDED REVEALING ICEMAN'S REAL, STILL-SECRET IDENTITY--A.G.

**IN G.R.#26-- A.G.

THE WIDOW AND HERCULES HEADED FOR NEW YORK...

AND THE ICEMAN?

HE'S-- UH-- HE'S AROUND... SOMEWHERE!

LISTEN! IF YOU'RE GOING TO GET ANY PICTURES, YOU'D BETTER GET STARTED!

THAT NIGHT...

WELL, I GOT THE *PICTURES* I NEEDED TO GET *PAID* FOR--

--BUT I ALSO GOT *CURIOUS!* I HAVE A CREEPY FEELING THE ANGEL WAS *LYING* TO ME ABOUT *ICEMAN*--

--AND THAT THE *"ACCIDENT"* WITH THE FALLING WINDOWS THIS AFTERNOON WASN'T TOTALLY ACCIDENTAL!

THE ANGEL HUSTLED *PETER PARKER* PAST HERE PRETTY *QUICKLY*--

--BUT NOT BEFORE I'D NOTICED THAT THE *FRAMES* THAT HAD HELD THE TWO *WINDOWS* HAD BEEN *PRIED* OUT OF SHAPE... FROM THE *INSIDE!*

SOMEBODY ALMOST *KILLED* A LOT OF *PEOPLE!*

IF THE ANGEL'S *COVERING UP* FOR A *MURDERER*--

--THIS IS *ONE* WALL-CRAWLER WHO WANTS TO KNOW *WHY!*

CORRIDOR'S *EMPTY!* I COULD JUST *WALK* IN--

--BUT, I MIGHT AS WELL ADMIT IT! I ALWAYS *DID* GET A CHARGE OUT OF DOING THINGS *MY WAY!*

AND WHY NOT? *THOR* WOULD LOOK PRETTY SILLY DOING *THIS!*

HMMM! *VOICES* AHEAD! *ANGRY* VOICES!

IT'S THE ANGEL AND A MUMMY IN A WHEELCHAIR!

SOMEONE IN THE SHADOWS BEHIND THEM, BUT I CAN'T MAKE OUT...

I'VE HAD ENOUGH, CLARKE! YOU CAN DO WHAT YOU WANT WITH ME--BUT YOU BROKE YOUR PROMISE!

YOU INVOLVED OTHERS IN YOUR ROTTEN SCHEME!

NO. ANGEL! YOU INVITED THAT PHOTOGRAPHER FROM NEW YORK! NOT I!

BLAST IT, HIS PAPER REQUESTED IT! THE END OF THE CHAMPIONS IS NEWS! IT WOULD HAVE LOOKED SUSPICIOUS TO REFUSE!

YOU OUGHT TO BE THANKFUL THAT FALLING GLASS MISSED HIM!

HAVE A CARE HOW YOU SPEAK TO ME, WORTHINGTON!

YOU FORGET THAT YOU ARE THE LAST REMAINING MEMBER OF THE CHAMPIONS!

AND YOU ARE TOTALLY WITHIN MY POWER--

--AS LONG AS THERE IS OUR--ER--MUTUAL FRIEND TO CONSIDER!

HE WILL CARRY OUT MY REVENGE! FIRST ON YOU--THEN ON THE REST OF THE CHAMPIONS!

FOR THEY MADE STUART CLARKE A HELPLESS CRIPPLE!

I WILL MAKE ALL OF YOU CRAWL--BEG ME FOR FORGIVENESS--

--BEFORE I SMASH YOU, ONE BY ONE! AND YOU DON'T DARE TRY TO STOP ME!

WHY YOU DERANGED, HOMICIDAL LITTLE PIPSQUEAK! I OUGHT TO--!

YOU FOOL! YOU FORGET THAT I NEED ONLY PUSH A BUTTON TO SUMMON FORTH--

KLIK!

RAMPAGE!

U-UNHHH!

WTRAM!

CAUGHT OFF GUARD BY THE SUDDENNESS OF RAMPAGE'S ATTACK--

--SMASHED AWAY FROM CLARKE BY A MAILED FIST BACKED BY THE TREMENDOUS POWER OF AN EXO-SKELETAL ARMORED SUIT DESIGNED TO MIMIC IRON MAN'S--

--THE ANGEL HURTLES, UNABLE TO BRAKE WITH HIS WINGS, TOWARDS THE WALL AND CERTAIN DEATH, WHEN...

THHWHIPP!

I-- I'M SAVED! BUT... HOW--?!

SAVED BY *WEBBING*-- WHICH EVEN NOW *DISSOLVES* AND FALLS AWAY FROM YOU! BUT THERE IS ONLY *ONE PERSON* WITH SUCH A *POWER*--!

WELL, WHY DON'TCHA SPIT IT *OUT*, BAND-AID PUSS? IT'S THAT LI'L OL' *WEB-SPINNER*--*ME*!

SPIDER-MAN!

GO TO THE *HEAD* OF THE *CLASS*, WINGS!

LUCKILY MY *MASK* MUFFLES MY *VOICE*, SO THE ANGEL CAN'T *IDENTIFY* ME AS THE *PHOTOGRAPHER* HE *SPOKE* TO THIS *MORNING*!

I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU CAME HERE--OR *HOW*--BUT YOU'RE NOT GOING TO LEAVE *ALIVE*!

MAYBE I HEARD THE CHAMPS WERE *RECRUITING*-- AND I HOPPED A *PLANE*--

--AND GOT HERE IN TIME TO WATCH THE ANGEL PUTTING UP WITH *THREATS* FROM A WHEELCHAIR-BOUND *MEGALOMANIAC*.

BUT, THEN-- SINCE THE CRIPPLE'S *ENFORCER* SEEMS TO BE A SECOND-CLASS *IRON MAN*, MAYBE I CAN SEE *WHY*!

WELL, DON'T JUST STAND THERE *STARING* AT ME! MAKE A *MOVE* AT ME, CUDDLES--

--AND WE'LL SEE HOW *TOUGH* YOU *REALLY* ARE!

WALL-CRAWLER, *NO*! YOU DON'T *UNDERSTAND*!

HEY! WHAT'S *WITH* YOU, WINGS? YOU *LIKE* BEING A PUNCHING BAG??

NO... IT'S JUST--

JUST *WHAT*?!

JUST BLACKMAIL, MEDDLER! THE ANGEL HAS NO CHOICE BUT TO DO AS I WISH! IF I CRAVE MONEY--HE PAYS! IF I CRAVE HIS LIFE--

--HE GIVES IT... OR ANOTHER SUFFERS IN HIS PLACE--

--THUS!

CLARKE, NO! YOU SWORE--!

KLIK!

I AM MERELY GIVING YOU A LESSON IN OBEDIENCE, ANGEL! REMEMBER... ANOTHER LIFE CAN BE SNUFFED OUT--

--AS EASILY AS I SNUFF OUT SPIDER-MAN'S!

WHOOM!!

YEEOWW! SPIDER-SENSE WARNED ME JUST IN TIME!

THAT'S WHAT I GET FOR PAYING ATTENTION TO CLARKE INSTEAD OF YOU, YOU REFUGEE FROM "SILENT MOVIE"!

WHAP!

HMMM! YOUR JAW DOESN'T SEEM AS TOUGH AS YOUR PLATED PARTS!

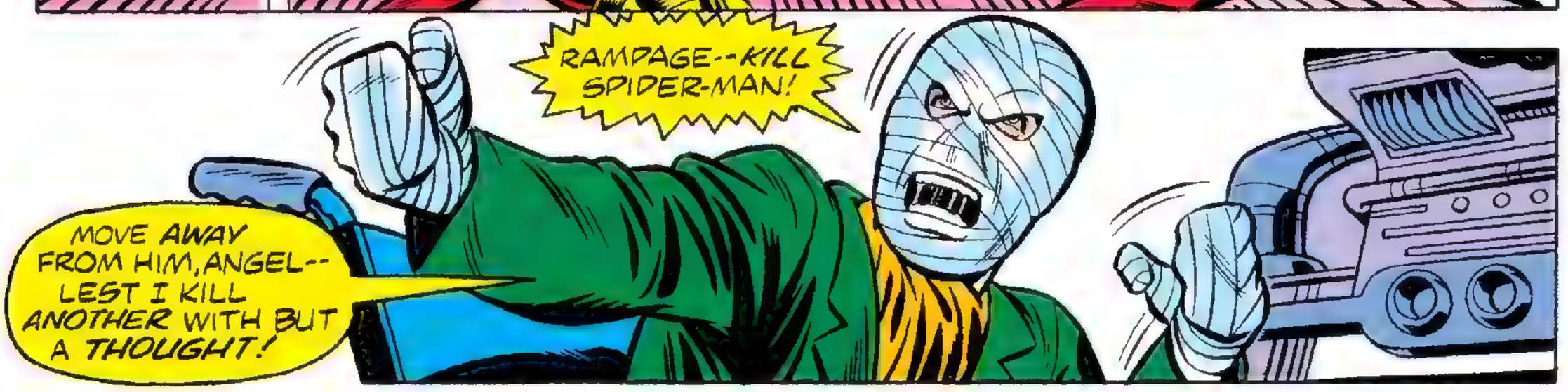
SPIDER-MAN, STOP IT! THERE--THERE'S A HUMAN BEING INSIDE THAT ARMOR, WHO--!

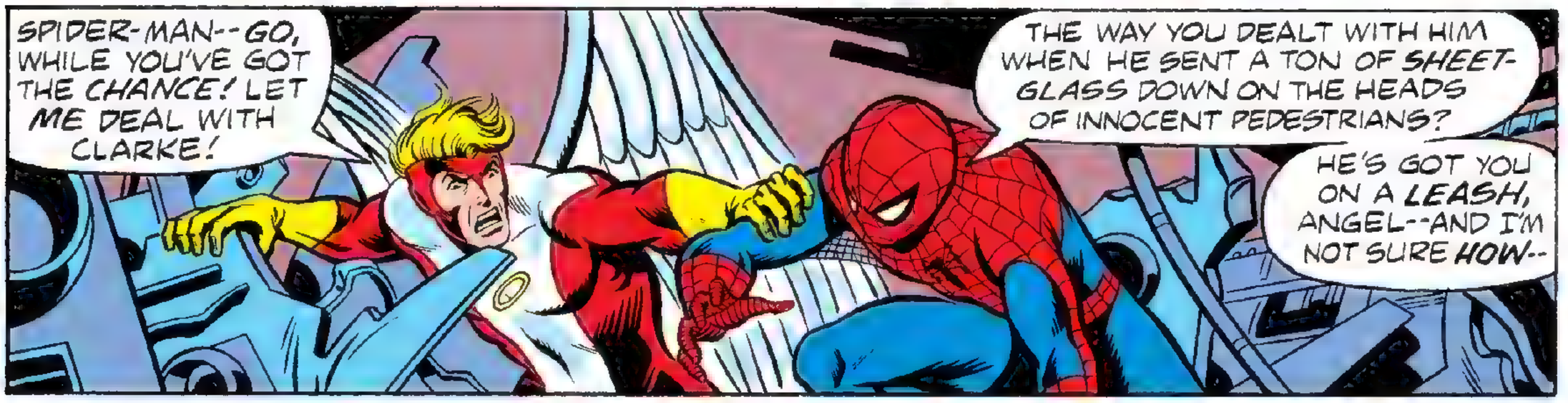
SO? WHAT DO YOU THINK I AM UNDERNEATH THIS UNION SUIT??

SAY... WHAT ARE YOU, ANYWAY? AN APOLOGIST FOR SUPER-VILLAINS?!

LET GO OF MY ARM, BEFORE--!

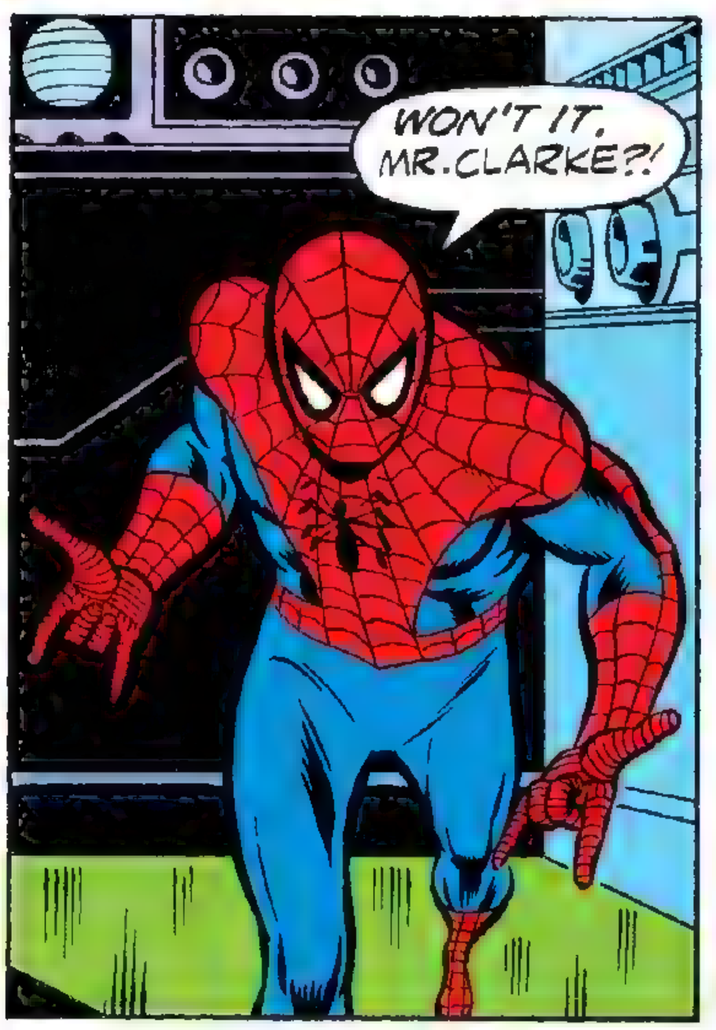
KWHOM!
T-TOO LATE!


RAMPAGE--KILL SPIDER-MAN!
MOVE AWAY FROM HIM, ANGEL-- LEST I KILL ANOTHER WITH BUT A THOUGHT!


SPIDER-MAN--GO, WHILE YOU'VE GOT THE CHANCE! LET ME DEAL WITH CLARKE!
THE WAY YOU DEALT WITH HIM WHEN HE SENT A TON OF SHEET-GLASS DOWN ON THE HEADS OF INNOCENT PEDESTRIANS?
HE'S GOT YOU ON A LEASH, ANGEL--AND I'M NOT SURE HOW--

--BUT I'M CLIPPING YOUR WINGS WHILE I HANDLE THIS MY WAY!
WOK!
UNGHH!

SLEEP EASY, FLY-BOY! WHEN YOU WAKE UP, IT'LL BE ALL OVER!


WON'T IT, MR. CLARKE?!

MOST ASSUREDLY, YOU MASKED MEDDLER! WOULD YOU CARE TO HEAR ME *PREDICT* THE *OUTCOME?*

MY CREATION-- *RAMPAGE*-- WILL *WIN!*

AND YOU, *SPIDER-MAN*... WILL *LOSE!*

I'VE ONLY GOT ONE *ANSWER* TO THAT, CLARKE--

--NUTS TO YOU!

WHAT?! I TRIED TO WEB OVER THE *CONTROL PANEL* THAT SEEMS TO TRANSMIT CLARKE'S *ORDERS* TO THE MONKEY IN THE *RAMPAGE SUIT*--

--BUT MY WEBBING'S BEEN *STOPPED* BY SOME KIND OF *FORCE-FIELD!*

DID YOU THINK I WOULD BE SO *STUPID* AS TO ALLOW *MYSELF* TO BE IN *JEOPARDY*--

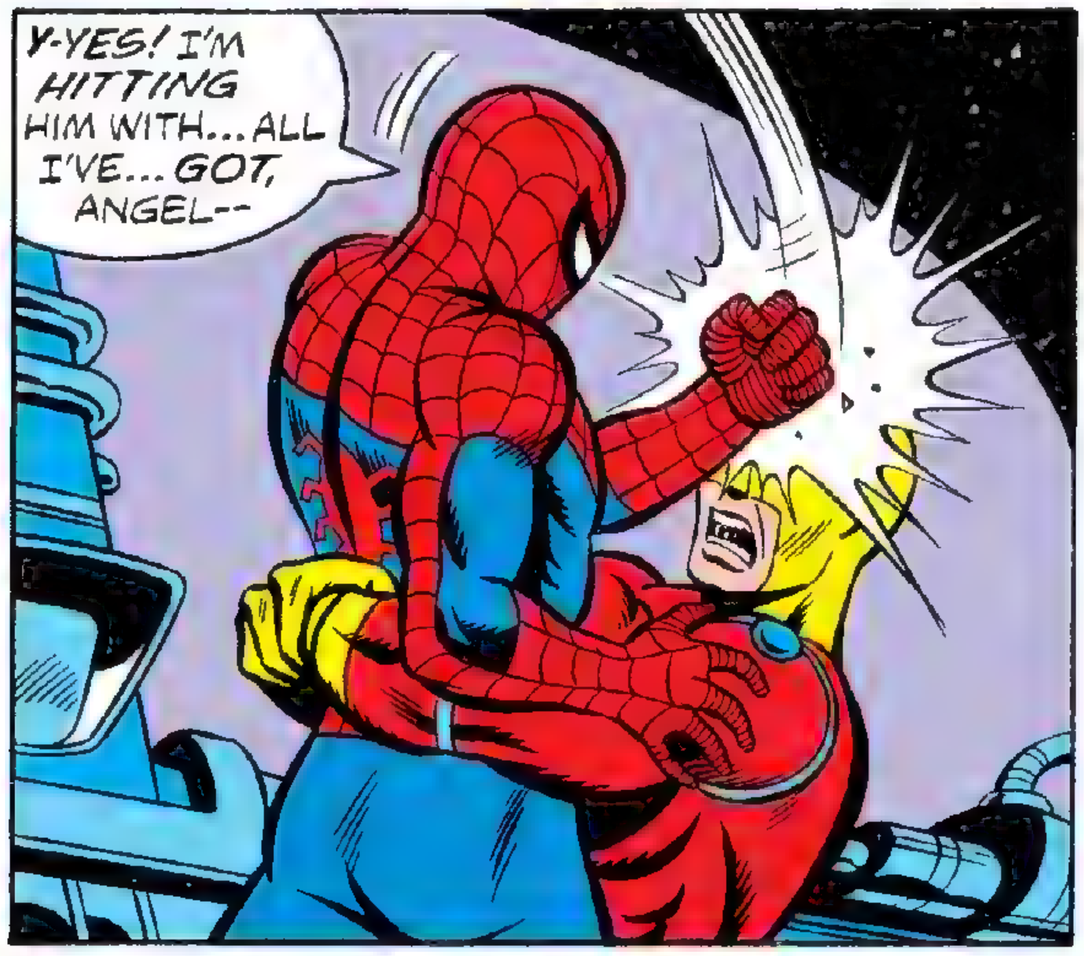
--WHILE *RAMPAGE* DOES MY *KILLING* FOR ME?!

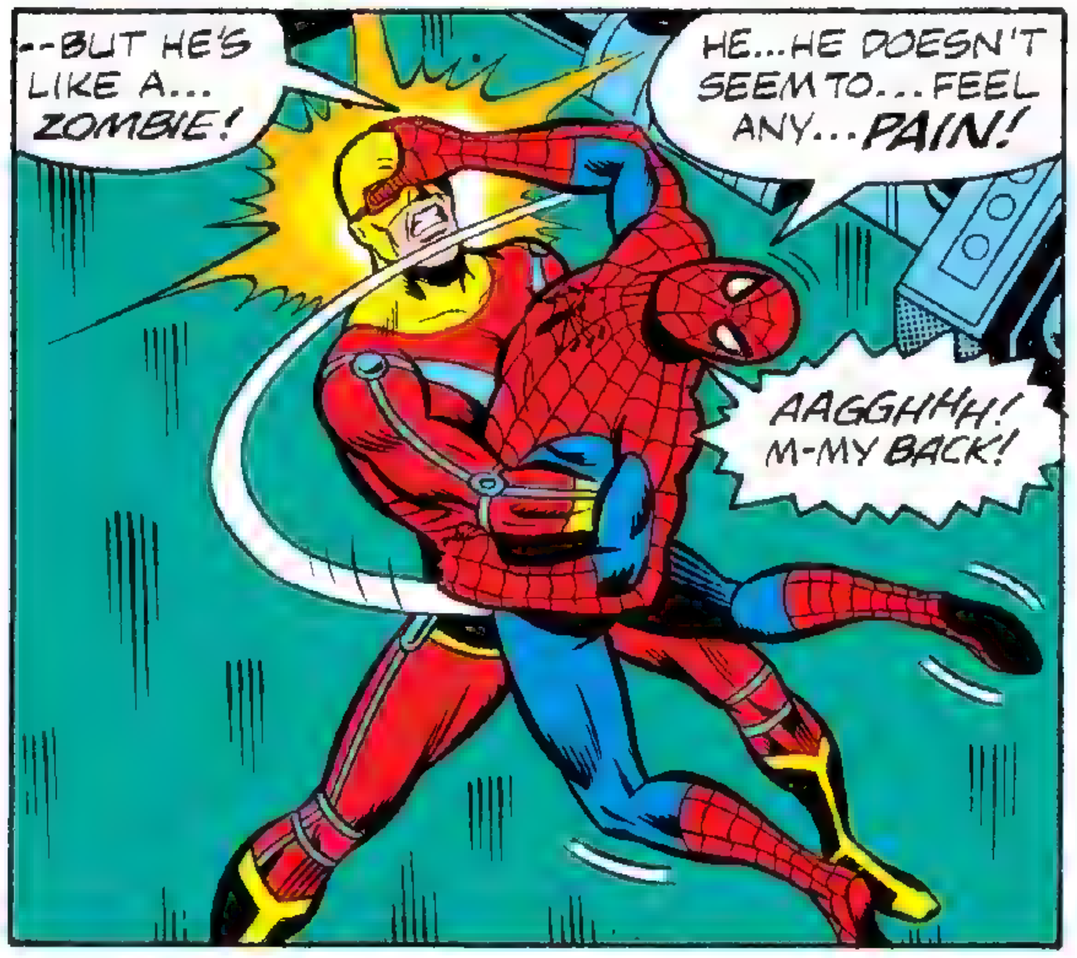
AND HERE HE *COMES*--HEEDING HIS MASTER'S *VOICE!*

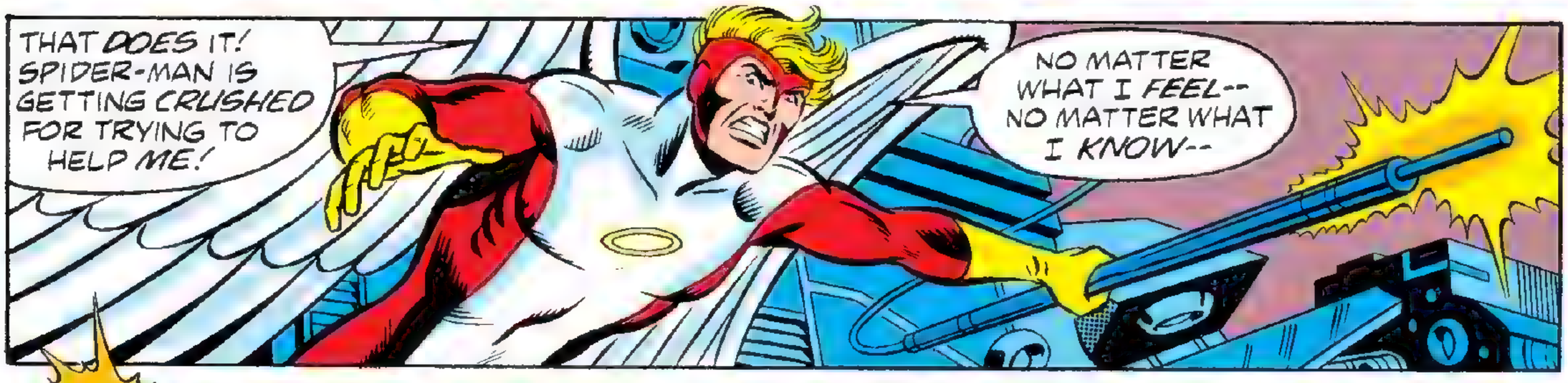
SOMETHING DISTURBINGLY *FAMILIAR* ABOUT HIM--BUT NO TIME TO FIGURE OUT *WHAT!*

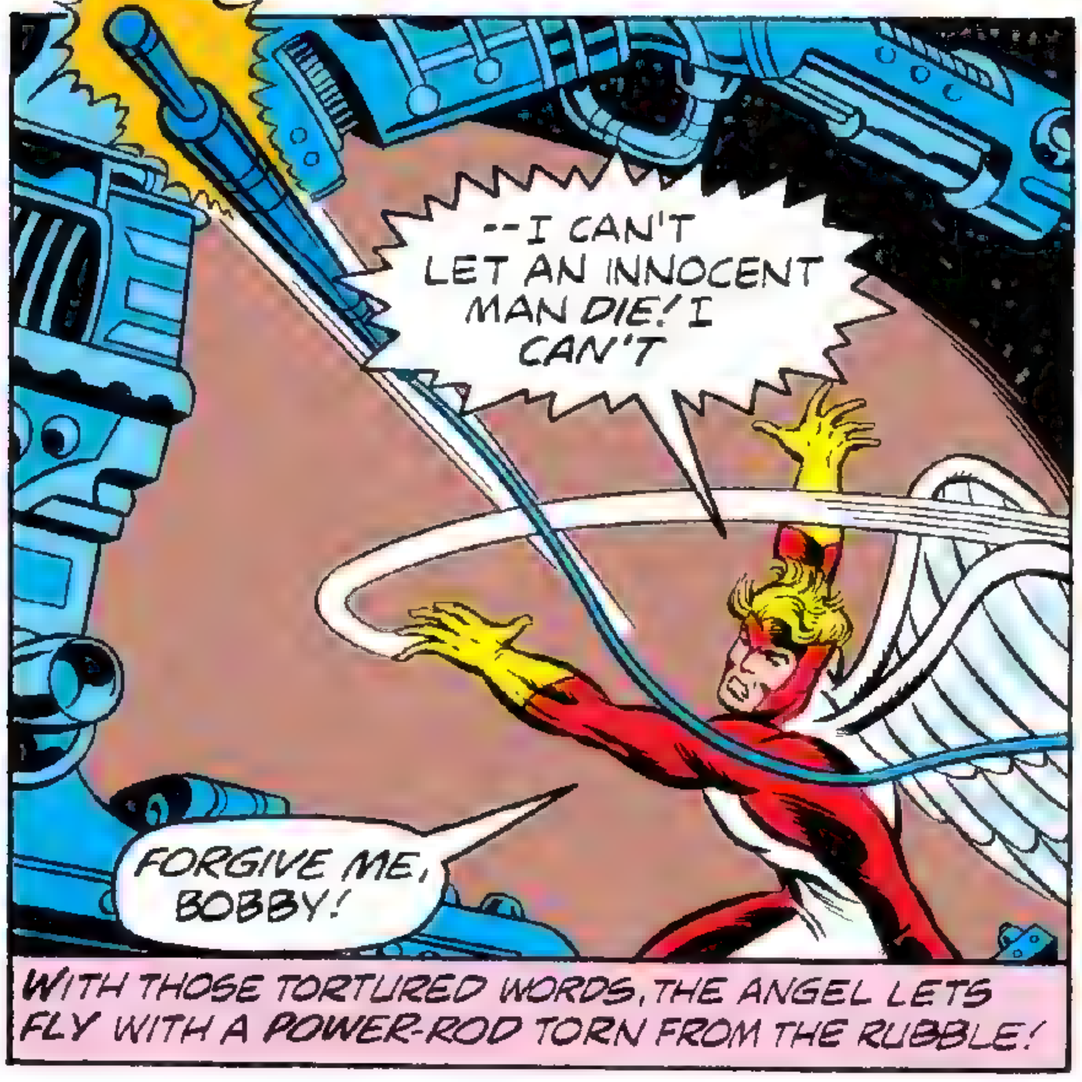
MEANWHILE...

UHHH! WHAT *HIT* ME? JAW FEELS LIKE...

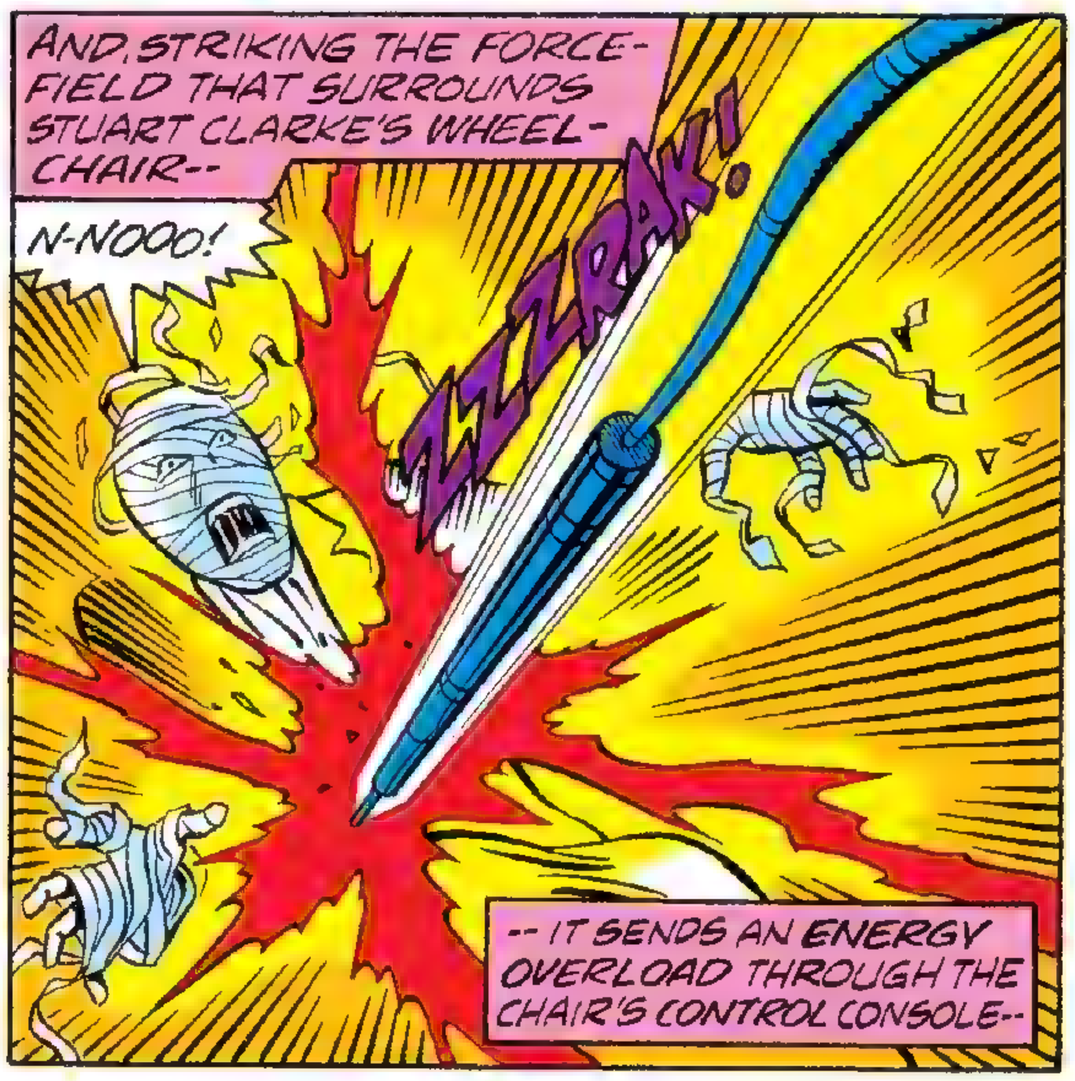








WITH THOSE TORTURED WORDS, THE ANGEL LETS FLY WITH A POWER-ROD TORN FROM THE RUBBLE!


AND, STRIKING THE FORCE-FIELD THAT SURROUNDS STUART CLARKE'S WHEEL-CHAIR--
N-NOOO!
ZZZRAK!
-- IT SENDS AN ENERGY OVERLOAD THROUGH THE CHAIR'S CONTROL CONSOLE--

--WHICH THEN FEEDS BACK INTO THE HEAD-PIECE OF THE MAN IN THE ARMOR OF RAMPAGE!

HE--HE'S HURT! HE'S LETTING GO!

YEEAGHH!

BUT HE'S STILL ON HIS FEET--AND THERE'S STILL HATRED--MURDER IN HIS EYES! THE FEEDBACK MUST HAVE ONLY ELIMINATED THE NEED FOR THE ARMOR TO TRANSMIT CLARKE'S MENTAL ORDERS!

NOW THEY'RE DIRECTLY IMPLANTED IN HIS BRAIN!

I--I UNDERSTAND NOW WHY YOU DIDN'T WANT ME TO FIGHT HIM! IF ONLY I'D KNOWN!

THE MAN IN THE RAMPAGE SUIT WAS NO MORE THAN A CAPTIVE PAWN--ACTING ONLY AT CLARKE'S COMMAND--

--A MAN CLARKE THREATENED TO KILL IF I DIDN'T SUBMIT TO HIS DEMANDS!

SO, NOW YOU DO KNOW!

THE RAMPAGE ARMOR IS CRACKING OFF HIM- BECOMING BRITTLE AS GLASS FROM THE TREMENDOUS COLD AS HE ICES UP!

EVEN WITH CLARKE UNCONSCIOUS, BECAUSE OF THE ENERGY FEEDBACK, HE'S STILL FOLLOWING THAT MADMAN'S LAST ORDERS--

--ORDERS TO KILL!

AND HE'S FAR DEADLIER COMMANDING HIS OWN POWERS THAN HE WAS AS RAMPAGE! NOW--

..WE HAVE TO FIGHT THE ICEMAN!

BE HERE FOR IT... NEXT MONTH!

THE SPECTACULAR SPIDERMAN ®

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PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN®

A CHAMPION GONE MAD!

NEITHER SPIDEY NOR THE AVENGING ANGEL CAN STEM THE ICEMAN'S FURY!

COLD RAGE, SWIFT DOOM!

While attending a demonstration in radiology, student PETER PARKER was bitten by a spider which had accidentally been exposed to RADIOACTIVE RAYS. Through a miracle of science, Peter soon found that he had GAINED the arachnid's powers...and had, in effect, become a human spider...

Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN!

SWELL! JUST *SWELL!* PETER PARKER ARRIVES IN *L.A.* TO PHOTOGRAPH THE *BREAK-UP* OF THE *CHAMPIONS*-- TOO LATE, NATCH--

--BUT JUST IN TIME TO FIND THE *ANGEL* BEING *BLACKMAILED* BY A WHEELCHAIR-BOUND CUCKOO NAMED *STUART CLARKE*, WHOSE *MUSCLE* IS AN ARMORED BRUISER CALLED *RAMPAGE!*

WELL, I FIXED *THAT* PRETTY QUICK, WITH A LATE-INNINGS ASSIST FROM THE ANGEL--WE ZAPPED CLARKE AND DISABLED THE RAMPAGE ARMOR-- BUT RAMPAGE TURNED OUT TO BE A HYPNOTIZED *BOBBY DRAKE*...THE *ICEMAN*-- AND HE'S *STILL* TRYING TO *KILL US!*

MY ORDERS ARE TO *KILL* YOU IF I HAVE TO DESTROY THE *CHAMPIONS BUILDING* TO DO IT!

A MANTLO ★ BUSCEMA ★ HUNT ★ ROSEN ★ BEVERIDGE ★ GOODWIN PRODUCTION ★ ★ ★ ★

C-761

MY FRIEND, MY FOE!

YEAH! HE JUST *MAY* SUCCEED! THOSE *ICE-DARTS* ARE SHARPER THAN A *BROOKS BROTHERS SUIT*--

--AND HE'S LOWERED THE *TEMPERATURE* AROUND US SO THAT WE HAVE TO EXPEND PRECIOUS *ENERGY* JUST TRYING TO STAY *WARM!*

HE'S GOT US *GOOD.* WE CAN'T FIGHT BACK BECAUSE WE DON'T DARE *HURT* HIM-- THOUGH HE DOESN'T EVEN *KNOW* IT!

SO WE *RUN*--WHILE WE TRY TO FIGURE OUT A WAY TO SNAP HIM *OUT* OF IT BEFORE HE PUTS US ON *ICE!*

YOU CAN'T RUN FROM ME *FOREVER!*

*AND NEITHER THE **ANGEL** NOR **SPIDER-MAN** DARES TO SPEAK THE UNSPEAKABLE-- THAT CLARKE'S CONTROL MIGHT HAVE **PERMANENTLY** DAMAGED THE ICEMAN'S **MIND**-- TURNING HIM INTO... A **KILLER!***

ANGEL, WE'VE GOT TO *END* THIS--GET HIM TO A *DOCTOR!* WHEN HE ROUNDS THE *CORNER*, I'M GOING TO...

NO! ANOTHER *SHOCK* MIGHT TOTALLY *UNBALANCE* HIM--

--AND HE'S MY *FRIEND*, WALL-CRAWLER! WE WERE PART OF THE ORIGINAL *X-MEN*-- WE FOUNDED THE *CHAMPIONS* TOGETHER! I WON'T *HURT* HIM--

--EVEN IF *HE* MEANS TO WIPE *US* OFF THE FACE OF THE *EARTH!*

WELL, HE'S COMING DOWN THE CORRIDOR *FAST*, WINGS! IF YOU'RE GOING TO CUT HIM *OFF...!*

KLIK KLIK

I--I'M *TRYING*, WEBHEAD-- BUT NOTHING'S EVER *WORKED* RIGHT IN THE CHAMPIONS BUILDING! THE *CIRCUITS* AREN'T RESPONDING! I--I CAN'T GET THE *SECURITY DOOR* TO *DROP!*

WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO CALL AN *ELECTRICIAN!* LET *ME* TRY!

KERRUMP!

HMMM! I THINK I SEE THE *PROBLEM!* ALL THE RELAYS HAVE *FUSED!* YOUR *BUILDERS* USED CHEAP *WIRING*, WORTHINGTON!

BUT IT SHOULDN'T BE HARD TO *BY-PASS* THE MAIN *RELAY!*

RRRIPP?

AND...

WHAT--?! THEY'VE DROPPED THE *SECURITY DOOR* BETWEEN *ME* AND *THEM!*

WHOM!

CLEVER! THE PROTOTYPE FOR THAT DOOR WAS TESTED BY *HERCULES!* HE *HAMMERED* HIS WAY THROUGH--

--BUT IT TOOK HIM A WHILE!

C

WELL, THE ICEMAN'S GOT A *SURPRISE* OR TWO UP HIS FROZEN SLEEVE! I MAY HAVE BEEN THE *YOUNGEST* CHAMPION--

--BUT, DESPITE WHAT THEY ALL THOUGHT, I WAS NEVER THE *WEAKEST!* MY *POWER* IS COLD--SUB-ZERO, FREEZING *COLD*--

--A FORCE AS *IRRESISTIBLE* AS THE *GLACIERS* THAT ONCE COVERED THE *WORLD!*

HOW LONG CAN A MERE *METAL PARTITION* HOLD OUT AGAINST *POWER* SUCH AS *THAT?!*

*STUART CLARKE--THE ORIGINAL **RAMPAGE**--LIES WHERE HE **FELL**,* UNAWARE OF THE **IRONY** THAT HIS ENSLAVED **VICTIM** MAY YET **SUCCEED** WHERE HE HIMSELF...**FAILED!***

*LAST ISSUE--ARCH.

WHILE, IN THE CORRIDOR BEYOND...

ALL RIGHT, WINGS--WHILE WE'VE GOT A *BREATHER*, SUPPOSE YOU TELL ME HOW A *NUT* LIKE CLARKE MANAGED TO *HIJACK* THE *MIND* OF OUR FRIEND, THE *ICEMAN!*

"IT STARTED WITH THE *BREAK-UP* OF THE *CHAMPIONS*, WALL-CRAWLER!*

"*GHOST RIDER, DARKSTAR, HERCULES* AND THE *BLACK WIDOW*, THE *ICEMAN*-- THEY ALL CUT OUT! I WAS THE *ONLY* ONE STILL CLINGING TO THE *DREAM* OF A SUPER-GROUP FOR THE *COMMON MAN!*

*SHOWN LAST ISSUE-- ARCH.

"I GUESS IT WAS *CRAZY!* I WAS A *WINGED MILLIONAIRE* TRYING TO HOLD TOGETHER TWO *RUSSIANS*, A *DEMI-GOD*, A FLAMING MOTORCYCLE-FREAK, AND MY FELLOW MUTANT, THE *ICEMAN!*

"WE HAD *LITTLE* IN COMMON WITH EACH OTHER OR WITH THAT *'COMMON MAN'* WE WERE SUPPOSED TO EXIST TO *BENEFIT!*

"ONLY *BOBBY* REALLY *CARED*, AND HIS FIRST ACT AFTER THE *SPLIT* WAS TO VISIT..."

...THE *HOSPITAL* WHERE *STUART CLARKE* IS BEING CARED FOR!

HOSPIT

CLARKE--*RAMPAGE*-- WAS INJURED WHEN THE *CRIMSON DYNAMO* TURNED HIM INTO A WALKING *BOMB* MEANT TO KILL THE *CHAMPIONS!**

THE DOCS SAY HE'LL BE A *CRIPPLE* FOR THE REST OF HIS LIFE!

**CHAMPIONS* #8--ARCH.

"AND, INSIDE THE HOSPITAL...

I'M AFRAID HE'S STILL *COMATOSE*, ICEMAN. HE'S NOT EVEN *AWARE* OF YOUR VISITS!

THAT MAKES IT EASIER FOR *ME*, DOC--NOT HAVING TO *FACE* HIS ACCUSING *STARE!*

YEAH, YOU WERE JUST A SMALL-CHANGE *BUSINESSMAN*, CLARKE--A *NOBODY* CAUGHT IN THE *RECESSION*...AN *INVENTOR* WHO CREATED THE *RAMPAGE ARMOR* AND THEN *USED* IT TO TURN TO *CRIME* IN RETALIATION AGAINST A SOCIETY THAT CHEWED YOU UP LIKE MEAT IN A *MEAT-GRINDER!*

I HAVE AN IDEA WHAT THAT'S LIKE. I CAN'T HELP FEELING *SORRY* FOR--

ICEMAN... LEAN... *CLOSER!* MUST... *TELL*... YOU...

W-WHAT--?! YOU'RE MOVING... *SPEAKING! AWAKE*, AND--

AND THE MOMENT I HAVE *WAITED* FOR THROUGH ALL YOUR INTERMINABLE, MAUDLIN *VISITS* IS FINALLY AT HAND!

PWOOF!

=CHOKE= *G-GAS!!*

YES--GAS MANUFACTURED *SECRETLY* FROM CHEMICALS STORED IN THE HOSPITAL DISPENSARY! YOUR *VISITS* INSPIRED A *PLAN* AS I LAY HEALING...AND *HATING*, DO-GOODER!

A PLAN OF... *REVENGE!*

THE GAS HAS AN *UNUSUAL* PROPERTY, ICEMAN! IT INDUCES A DEEP *HYPNOSIS*! YOU WILL DO WHAT I *SAY*, ICEMAN!

RISE, MUTANT-- AT MY *COMMAND!*

I... *RISE!*

VERY GOOD! THE HYPNOSIS EFFECT IS ONLY *TEMPORARY*--BUT IT WILL SERVE UNTIL I CAN EMPLOY A *STRONGER*, MORE *PERMANENT* MEANS OF CONTROL!

"TOTALLY *OBEDIENT*, BOBBY LIFTED THE *CRIPPLE* FROM THE BED, JUST AS...

YOU THERE! *STOP!* WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE *DOING*?!?

CLARKE...GOES... WITH...*ME!*

GOOD LORD! THE *ICEMAN* HAS *KIDNAPPED* A COMATOSE, *HELPLESS* MAN! BUT--*WHY*?!

HE ONCE *FOUGHT* CLARKE--AND NOW HE WANTS *REVENGE!*

IT'S THE ONLY *ANSWER!*

"BY SAYING *NOTHING*, CLARKE *SMEARED* BOBBY'S NAME BUT *GOOD*, CAUSING HIM TO BE *FEARED* AS A VENGEANCE-LUSTING *VIGILANTE*...A *CRIMINAL!*"

THE *POLICE* CALLED -- AS MUCH AS ACCUSED ME OF *COMPLICITY*, THEN INSISTED THAT I BE MY BROTHER'S KEEPER AND *FIND* BOBBY!

BUT HE AND CLARKE FOUND *YOU* INSTEAD, HUH?

"*YES!* I SHOULD HAVE HAD THAT *SPIDER-SENSE* OF YOURS! THEN, WHEN I *RETURNED* TO OUR NOW-EMPTY *HEADQUARTERS* ATOP THE CHAMPIONS BUILDING I MIGHT HAVE *KNOWN*--

"--THAT I WAS *FLYING* INTO A *TRAP!*"

GU-UKK!

RAMPAGE! BUT YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE IN A *COMA*-- A *CRIPPLE!!*

THE *LATTER* -- THANKS TO THE CHAMPIONS -- IS ALL TOO *TRUE*, ANGEL! AS TO MY *COMATOSE STATE*, I MUST SAY I *FOOLED* MY DOCTORS MOST INGENIOUSLY!

IS WEARING MY *ARMOR*? MY DEAR ANGEL, DON'T YOU *RECOGNIZE*--

CLARKE! THEN *WHO*--?!

--THE MINDLESS, HATE-FILLED COUNTENANCE OF YOUR FORMER TEAMMATE... THE *ICEMAN*?!

"BOBBY, IN THE *RAMPAGE* ARMOR, WAS THE *KEY* TO CLARKE'S *REVENGE!*

"I COULDN'T *FIGHT* HIM WITHOUT TAKING THE RISK OF *HURTING* HIM! CLARKE HAD US *BOTH* IN HIS POWER!"

AND THAT'S WHERE I CAME IN, EH? SO, WINGS, WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

KRASHTAM!

THE SECURITY DOOR! BOBBY'S COLD HAS RENDERED IT AS BRITTLE AS GLASS!

SO ALL IT TOOK TO GET THROUGH IT WAS A THUMP FROM AN ICE-RAM? SWELL!

NOW WE'RE RIGHT UP AGAINST A GUY WE DON'T WANT TO FIGHT!

YOU DON'T HAVE ANY CHOICE, WALL-CRAWLER--

--BECAUSE I WANT YOU DEAD!!

SPIDER-MAN-- LOOK OUT!

Y'KNOW, WINGS, I DON'T THINK A WARNING IS WHAT I NEED JUST NOW!

IT'S AS IF CLARKE'S MURDEROUS INTENTIONS HAVE FUSED ONTO BOBBY'S MIND LIKE A POST-HYPNOTIC SUGGESTION--

--WITHOUT AFFECTING HIS FIGHTING ABILITY OR HIS MANNERISMS!

HE STILL SOUNDS LIKE MY BEST FRIEND-- BUT HE'S OUT TO TAKE MY LIFE!

GOT YOU, DADDY WARBUCKS!

FLAP AWAY, ANGEL! MAYBE IF YOU FLAP HARD ENOUGH--

--YOU'LL MAKE IT TO HEAVEN!

AND, AS ICY FINGERS AT HIS THROAT BEGIN TO LOWER THE ANGEL'S BODY TEMPERATURE--

--OUR SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN IS HAVING TROUBLES OF HIS OWN!

THE BLASTED ICE-BALL KEEPS ROLLING AFTER ME DOWN THE CORRIDOR!

BUT I'VE FINALLY MANAGED TO HUG THE CEILING--TO LEAP BEHIND IT!

I'M SAFE--

"--BUT IT'S ROLLING RIGHT OUT THE BLASTED WINDOW!!"

SKRASH!

THEY'RE AT IT AGAIN! FIRST IT WAS FALLING WINDOWS,* NOW IT'S SPIKED ICE CUBES!

*LAST ISH--ARCH.

GOOD LORD, WE--WE'LL BE KILLED!

BUT THEN...

THUD!

THAP!

WE'RE... SAVED? BY WEBBING?!

IN A WORD... YES!

B-BUT... I CAUGHT IT BEFORE IT KILLED ANYONE!

AND, ON THE PLAZA BELOW...

IT-- IT'S JUST HANGING THERE... MELTING!

DO--DO YOU THINK IT MIGHT BE SOME NEW FORM OF... ART?

NOTHING IN LOS ANGELES WOULD SURPRISE ME!

MEANWHILE, IN THE CHAMPIONS BUILDING...

DRAKE-- YOU'RE KILLING HIM!

THAT'S THE IDEA, ISN'T IT?

IT MAY HAVE BEEN CLARKE'S IDEA, FROSTY-- BUT IT'S NOT YOURS! STILL, IF YOU'RE TOO WIGGED-OUT TO REALIZE THAT--!

SORRY, PAL-- BUT YOU KNOW NOT WHAT YOU DO!

WHITHAM!

NOW, YOU WALKING SNO-CONE-- WILL YOU AT LEAST TRY TO REMEMBER?

ALL I REMEMBER IS THAT YOU'RE MY ENEMY! I HATE YOU...AND I'M GOING TO KILL YOU.

BLAST IT-- THE HATE YOU FEEL BELONGS TO CLARKE-- TO RAMPAGE-- NOT TO YOU! YOU'RE BOBBY DRAKE... THE ICEMAN!

AND YOU'RE TRYING TO DESTROY ME!

THIP!

BROTHER! I CAN SEE REASONING WITH YOU IS A WASTE, SO...

SO *NOTHING!* YOUR WEBBING *FREEZES*--CRACKS *OFF* AS SOON AS IT *TOUCHES* ME!

WELL, I DIDN'T SAY THIS WAS GOING TO BE *EASY!*

BUT, LIKE IT OR NOT, YOU NEED TO BE GOTTEN TO A *DOCTOR*, POPSICLE--*FAST!*

SO WE MIGHT AS WELL STOP *PUSSYFOOTING* AROUND AND GET DOWN TO *CASES!*

SPIDER-MAN, LOOK OUT FOR THE--

--WINDOW!

CRASH!

SKITTER!

THANKS *AGAIN* FOR THAT *WARNING*, ANGEL! I'LL BEAR IT IN *MIND* ON MY WAY *DOWN!*

M-MY GOD! THERE'S NO POSSIBLE WAY I CAN *SAVE* THEM IN *TIME!*

I'M *AFRAID*, MISTER WORTHINGTON, THAT *TIME* IS SOMETHING YOU HAVE FINALLY RUN *OUT* OF!

HUH? WHO IN BLAZES ARE *YOU?!?*

WE REPRESENT THE *CONSTRUCTION COMPANY* THAT BUILT THE *CHAMPIONS BUILDING*, MR. WORTHINGTON!

WE UNDERSTAND CERTAIN... ER, *STRUCTURAL FLAWS* HAVE MANIFESTED THEMSELVES!

BUT WE...ER, FEEL OUR *CLIENTS* CANNOT BE HELD TOTALLY... UH--

--RESPONSIBLE! PERHAPS WE CAN REACH AN *UNDERSTANDING!*

WHILE...

COME TO YOUR *SENSES* YET, FROSTY?

YOU'RE GOING TO *PAY* FOR THIS, SPIDER-MAN--AS WILL THE *CHAMPIONS!*

UH-*HUH!* I SEE YOU'RE STILL SPEAKING FOR OUR KAYOED *MR. CLARKE!*

Y'KNOW-- YOU NEED AN *EXORCIST* MORE THAN YOU NEED *ME!*

THWIP!

CAR WASH

ROLL UP YOUR *WINDOWS!* MOVE *ALONG* THERE!

ACE AUTO PARTS

BUT, SINCE I'M JUST *HANGING AROUND* ANYWAY, I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO BE THE ONE TO GET YOU BACK TO *NORMAL!*

AND I THINK I JUST HAD AN *IDEA* HOW TO *ACCOMPLISH* IT, SNO-CONE!

WHTROOM!

WHAT? WHO? OH, *NO! SUPER-HEROES!*

AND, HURTLING INTO THE STEAMING CAR-WASH...

THIS MAY BE THE MOST *HAREBRAINED* SCHEME I'VE EVER *HATCHED*, BUT IT WAS A SUDDEN *SHOCK* THAT MERGED FROSTY'S *PERSONALITY* WITH CLARKE'S *DEMENTIA*--

--SO MAYBE *ANOTHER* SUDDEN SHOCK WILL JAR HIM *BACK!*

SSSSSSSS

AND WHAT COULD BE MORE *SHOCKING* TO AN *ICEMAN*--

--THAN *SCALDING HOT STEAM*?!

SSSSSSS

SSSSSSSSS

M-MY *ICE*! IT--IT'S *MELTING*! I--

--*YAAGHHH*!

SSSSSSSSSSSS

SSSSSS

WELL, IT *STOPPED* HIM... BUT DID IT *CURE* HIM--

--OR *KILL* HIM? COME ON, FELLA-- *WAKE UP*... AS *YOURSELF*!

HEY, IT'S *SPIDER-MAN*! AIN'T HE *WANTED*?

CAR WASH #3.00

THIP!

NOT IN *MY* CAR WASH!

I DON'T KNOW IF DRAKE'S IDENTITY IS SUPPOSED TO BE A *SECRET**--BUT UNTIL HE SAYS *NO*, A *WEB-MASK* CAN'T HURT!

*SPIDEY'S KNOWN ICEMAN'S IDENTITY SINCE MARVEL TEAM-UP *4--ARCHIE.

THEN, AFTER ANXIOUS MOMENTS...

UNHH! *SPIDER-MAN*! WHAT--?! HOW'D I GET FROM THE *HOSPITAL*...TO *HERE*?!

THAT'S A *LONG* STORY, FELLA! I'LL *TELL* IT TO YOU ON OUR WAY BACK TO THE *CHAMPIONS BUILDING*!

AND SO...

-- YOU PUT UP QUITE A *FIGHT*, AT CLARKE'S *COMMAND*, WHILE THE ANGEL AND I TRIED TO *FREE* YOU!

CLARKE -- THAT POOR, PITIFUL *SCHNOOK!* CAN YOU IMAGINE LYING IN A *HOSPITAL BED*, NOT MOVING FOR *MONTHS*, THINKING ONLY OF *VENGEANCE*?

IT'D DRIVE *ANYONE* MAD!

ESPECIALLY A GUY HALFWAY *THERE* TO START WITH!

AND ON THE *THIRTY-FIFTH FLOOR*...

WELL, HERE WE... *HEY!* WHAT'S GOING *ON*?!

IT-- IT FEELS LIKE A *HURRICANE*, SPIDEY!

YEAH! AND I CAN *GUESS* WHO'S *RESPONSIBLE!*

GET *OUT* OF HERE, YOU FILTHY *LEECHES!* DO YOU *HEAR* ME? *GET OUT*--

-- BEFORE I *BLOW* YOU FROM HERE TO *SAN FRANCISCO!*

WE-- WE'RE *GOING*, MR. WORTHINGTON! YOU-- YOU CAN CONSIDER ALL YOUR *DEBTS* CANCELLED!

AND ALL *REPAIRS* WILL BE QUITE *FREE* OF *CHARGE!*

FWOOOSHH!

AND CONSIDER YOUR *PROPERTY* AS *RENTED!*

WE P-P-PROMISE!

HUH?

DON'T LOOK AT *ME*-- I ARRIVED WITH *YOU!*

THE *SCUM!* I FORCED THEM TO ADMIT THAT OUR *CONTRACTORS* CONSPIRED TO *DESTROY* THE CHAMPIONS BUILDING... BY USING *CHEAP* MATERIALS DURING CONSTRUCTION! MY *LAWYERS* WILL DEAL WITH *THEM!*

BUT WHEN THEY *STOPPED* ME FROM GOING AFTER *YOU*, I THOUGHT I'D PAY THEM BACK... *PERSONALLY!*

I'LL SAY!

AFTER WARREN WORTHINGTON III AND BOBBY DRAKE GREET EACH OTHER, AND THE TALE OF THE ICEMAN'S RESTORATION TO SELF HAS BEEN TOLD...

SO WHAT HAPPENS NOW, WINGS?

WE GET CLARKE BACK TO THE HOSPITAL, I GUESS--

--THEN I PICK UP THE PIECES FROM THERE!

AND YOU, DRAKE?

SAME AS BEFORE ALL THIS WENT DOWN, WEBHEAD! I'VE ALWAYS BEEN LOOKED AT AS A LITTLE LEAGUE SUPER-HERO...AND I'VE NEVER LIKED IT!

I'M NO LONGER AN X-MAN OR A CHAMPION! I'M JUST ME-- BOBBY DRAKE--

--AND, FOR A WHILE, WHERE THE ICEMAN WALKS, HE WALKS... ALONE!

WELL, THEN...I GUESS I'D BEST BE--

"--GOING!

IF I HUSTLE I CAN MAKE THE EARLY PLANE BACK TO NEW YORK!

WITH AUNT MAY IN THE HOSPITAL,* I SHOULD HAVE BEEN BACK HOURS AGO!

BUT THE PHOTOS OF THE CHAMPS BUILDING WHICH I'VE ALREADY WIRED BACK TO THE BUGLE WILL PAY FOR HER MEDICATION!

*SEE CURRENT ISSUES OF AMAZING SPIDER-MAN-- ARCH.

AND I SHOULD BE IN FOR A FAT BONUS ONCE I DEVELOP THESE BELT-CAMERA PIX OF MY FIGHT WITH THE ICEMAN!

HUH? WHAT THE HECK--?!

OH, SWELL! DRAKE MUST'VE HIT ME IN THE STOMACH--

--AND THAT STEAM-BATH IN THE CAR WASH DID THE REST!

SOMEHOW EVEN WHEN I WIN-- I LOSE!

AND, ON THAT NOTE, WE CUT BACK EASTWARD -- TO THE CAMPUS OF EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY IN NEW YORK, WHERE...

I CAN'T BELIEVE WE'RE FINALLY ALONE TOGETHER, SHA SHAN -- WITHOUT THE MAN-BEAST, THE LEGION OF LIGHT, OR YOUR... FORMER HUSBAND TO BOTHER US! *

ACHMED AND THE MAN-BEAST DIED IN THE EXPLOSION OF THE HATE-AMPLIFIER!

I HAVE FULFILLED THE MISSION GIVEN ME BY MY SAINTED FATHER, FLASH! I... AM FREE NOW!

*AS YOU KNOW IF YOU'VE READ SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #12-15 -- ARCHIE.

FREE TO BE WITH ME, YOU MEAN! EVER SINCE I FIRST SAW YOU IN VIETNAM--*

--I'VE DREAMED OF WALKING WITH YOU LIKE THIS...OF HOLDING YOUR HAND!

I, TOO, HAVE PRAYED FOR IT TO BE, FLASH! AND FROM THE HAPPINESS I FEEL IN MY HEART, I KNOW IT IS RIGHT!

*AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #108 -- ARCH.

A BALANCE BETWEEN YOU AND ME, HUH? YEAH, I FEEL THE SAME WAY, SHA SHAN... HAPPY!

AND YET, WE REALLY KNOW SO LITTLE ABOUT EACH OTHER!

THAT'S GOING TO CHANGE, WITH YOU ENROLLING AT ESU AND ROOMING IN THE DORMS!

LADY, I THINK I LOVE YOU -- AND I'M GOING TO CAMP OUT ON YOUR DOORSTEP UNTIL I KNOW FOR SURE!

I WILL LIKE THAT, FLASH!

SEE IF YOU CAN SKIM THE LOVE-BIRDS, HOLLY!

SOUNDS GOOD FOR A LAUGH, NICK -- AND THIS IS ONE ART MAJOR WHO LIKES TO LAUGH!

WITH AN EXPERT FLIP OF A FEMININE WRIST, THE PLASTIC FRISBEE FLIES --

--STRAIGHT AT THE HEADS OF FLASH AND SHA SHAN!

HEY, LOVEBIRDS -- LOOK OUT!

TOO LATE! IT'S GONNA HIT --!

¡NO, MIS AMIGOS! IT WILL HIT NOBODY!

THE SPEAKER'S HAND LASHES OUT--A BLUR OF MOTION--AND THE PLASTIC DISC IS PLUCKED FROM THE AIR!

NOT THAT FLASH OR SHA SHAN HAS NOTICED!

¡OYE! THEY DON'T EVEN KNOW THAT THEY ALMOST GOT CONKED! THOSE TWO ARE IN ANOTHER WORLD! ¡AY, AMOR!

GO ON, LOVERS! YOU CAN THANK ME WHEN YOU GET BACK TO EARTH!

HEY, I'LL THANK YOU NOW! FOR THE SAVE, I MEAN! I GUESS THAT WAS A PRETTY THOUGHTLESS STUNT I ALMOST PULLED!

UH--MY NAME'S HOLLY... HOLLY GILLIS! IF YOU'LL GIVE ME MY FRISBEE BACK, I'LL PROMISE TO BE GOOD!

ONLY IF YOU CUT ME IN ON THE GAME, SEÑORITA--NOW THAT THE FIELD IS CLEARED! I'VE MISSED MY MORNING CLASS, ANYWAY!

HEY, YOU GO HERE, TOO? THINGS ARE LOOKING UP AT THIS SCHOOL!

WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

HECTOR AYALA, HOLLY! AND, YOU KNOW--THINGS JUST STARTED LOOKING GOOD FOR ME, TOO!

¡OYE! LET'S PLAY, AMIGOS Y AMIGAS!

THUS ARE THE FOUNDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE LAID--

--WHILE, THAT EVENING, IN THE SKIES OVER UPSTATE NEW YORK...

YOUR DRINK, SIR!

THANKS, STEWARDESS! SAY--WE'VE BEEN CIRCLING FOR A LONG TIME! WHAT'S UP?

THE NEW YORK AIRPORTS ARE *FOG-BOUND*, SIR! WE'VE BEEN RE-ROUTED OVER *UP-STATE NEW YORK*, CIRCLING FOR A LANDING AT *ALBANY!*

HMM! THAT'S *ATTICA STATE PRISON* DOWN THERE!

SUDDENLY...

G-GOOD *LORD!* SOME-THING'S *STRUCK* THE PLANE!

THAT SUDDEN *BRILLIANCE!* WE--WE MUST HAVE BEEN *HIT* BY *LIGHTNING!*

EVERYONE STAY *CALM*--PLEASE! THE PLANE IS *RIGHTING* ITSELF!

THERE'S NO NEED TO *PANIC!* IT *WAS* LIGHTNING! IT STRUCK CLOSE BY, BUT *MISSED* US! WE'RE *ALL RIGHT!*

THIS MAY SOUND *CRAZY*, BUT--

--THAT *"LIGHTNING"* STRUCK FROM... THE *GROUND?!*

AT THAT MOMENT, IN THE FOREBODING PRISON BELOW...

THE--THE WHOLE *CELL* IS... *GONE! DISINTEGRATED* FROM THE *CENTER* OUTWARD! THERE'S NO SIGN OF THE *INMATE* WHO OCCUPIED IT!

NO ONE COULD HAVE *LIVED* THROUGH A *BLAST* LIKE THAT! *NO ONE!*

THAT'S WHAT *YOU* THINK, BULLS!

HAHAHAHAHA

AND AS THE INMATE LAUGHS, A LIGHT BULB IN THE CEILING DIMS TO ITS NORMAL INTENSITY!

NEXT ISSUE: A MYSTERY AND SOME MERRY MARVEL NASTIES YOU'LL LOVE TO HATE!

ANYONE REMEMBER... The ENFORCERS?

THE SPECTACULAR SPIDERMAN ®

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PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN®

THE ENFORCERS ARE BACK!

DEADLIER THAN EVER!

ERNIE CHAN 1977

WHO? IS THE MYSTERIOUS MASTERMIND BEHIND THIS MURDEROUS ATTACK?

While attending a demonstration in radiology, student PETER PARKER was bitten by a spider which had accidentally been exposed to RADIOACTIVE RAYS. Through a miracle of science, Peter soon found that he had GAINED the arachnid's powers...and had, in effect, become a human spider...

STAN LEE PRESENTS: THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN!

AGAIN, The ENFORCERS!

THE TIME: MIDNIGHT--WHEN MOST DARK DEEDS ARE DONE!

THE PLACE: A LONG ABANDONED WAREHOUSE IN LONG ISLAND CITY!

GIVE IT TO 'IM AGAIN, FANCY DAN!

WIT DA GREATEST PLEASURE, MONTANA!

BILL MANTLO / SAL BUSCEMA & MIKE ESPOSITO
WRITER / ARTISTS
J. NOVAK / LETTERS M. TITUS / COLORS
JIM SHOOTER / EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

THE SITUATION: WE'LL LET YOU FIGURE THAT OUT AS WE GO ALONG!

YOU SHORE DO **DEE-LIGHT** IN DISHIN' IT **OUT** TO THET **WEBBED CAYUSE**, DON'T YUH, DAN?

YOU CAN SAY **THAT** AGAIN, COWBOY!

AFTER ALL THE YEARS WE'VE SPENT IN **STIR** BECAUSE OF HIM AN' THAT FLAMIN'-FREAK **FRIEND** OF HIS--THE **HUMAN TORCH**--*

*THE **LAST** SUCH OCCASION WAS IN **MARVEL TEAM-UP #40**-- JIM.

--CAN YA **BLAME** ME FOR FEELIN' THE WAY I **DO**, MONTANA?

NOT ONE **BIT**, L'IL BUDDY, 'LESS YUH TRY TA **HOG** ALL THE **FUN** BY FINISHIN' OFF THE **WALL-CRAWLER** ALL BY YORE LONESOME!

TCHUUNG!

Y'ALL ARE FORGETTIN' THAT IT WAS *MONTANA* WHO HOG-TIED THIS CRITTER SO'S YOU COULD *BEAT* ON 'IM THE FIRST PLACE!

THWIP!

BUT THEN, WE-ALL ARE A *TEAM,* PAHDNUH-- AN' MONTANA DON'T HOLD NO *GRUDGES*--

EXIT

-- PROVIDIN' THE *BRAND* THAT FINALLY GETS *BURNED ON* READS: *"THE ENFORCERS"!*

THAT SUITS ME TO A *"T"!*

KRUM!

SUDDENLY...

IF YOUSE GUYS IS *DONE* FOOLIN' AROUND-- IT'S *MY* TURN!

M-MONTANA --L-LOOK WHO IT *IS!*

THUNDERATION! IT-- IT *CAIN'T BE!* HE'S *DEAD!*

THE OX AIN'T DEAD!

BUT SPIDER-MAN'S GONNA BE--

EXIT

--JUST AS SOON AS I GET MUH HANDS ON HIM!

SEE WHAT I MEAN?!

HE--HE TORE THE PRACTICE DUMMY T'PIECES!

THEN, GENTLEMEN, IF THAT DEMONSTRATION WAS SUFFICIENT-- I SUGGEST YOU WELCOME YOUR TEAMMATE--

--THE NEW OX-- RECRUITED TO REPLACE THE OLD, WHO FELL IN BATTLE!*

I DID GOOD, BOSS?

*DAREDEVIL #86 -- JIM.

YES-- BUT, AS THE RECONSTITUTED ENFORCERS, ALL OF YOU MUST DO EVEN BETTER! TOO OFTEN IN THE PAST HAVE YOU MET DEFEAT!

THAT MUST CHANGE-- AND, WITH MY GUIDANCE, IT SHALL! VENGEANCE AGAINST SPIDER-MAN SHALL BE OURS!

HEED MY WORDS, FRIENDS --THE WALL-CRAWLER MUST DIE!

THE NEXT DAY DAWNS, PLEASANT WITH THE PROMISE OF **SPRING!**

PLEASANT, THAT IS, UNLESS ONE'S **FIRST** TASK UPON WAKING IS HAVING TO VISIT THE **PUBLISHER'S OFFICE** OF THE NEW YORK **DAILY BUGLE!**

COME IN, MY BOY! SIT DOWN-- DON'T BE **SHY!** YOU'VE GOT A BONA FIDE **BONUS** COMING TO YOU, MR. PARKER--

--JUST AS SOON AS YOU TURN OVER YOUR **PHOTOS** OF SPIDER-MAN'S RAMPAGE THROUGH **LOS ANGELES!***

***JONAH'S** INTERPRETATION OF **LAST ISSUES** EVENTS--JIM.

WE HEARD ABOUT SPIDEY'S BATTLE WITH THE **ICEMAN** FROM OUR L.A. STRINGERS, PETE!

WE HELD UP **PAGE ONE**-- JUST SO WE CAN PRINT YOUR **PICTURES!**

FIGHT? PICTURES?

I DON'T **GET** IT!

I SENT YOU THOSE SHOTS OF THE **CHAMPIONS' BUILDING** THAT YOU WANTED--

--AND THEN **JET-LAG** HIT ME, SO I WENT BACK TO MY HOTEL AND **SLEPT** STRAIGHT THROUGH UNTIL MY **FLIGHT** THIS MORNING! I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW **SPIDEY** WAS OUT THERE ON THE **WEST COAST!**

PHEW! IT'S A GOOD THING JONAH DOESN'T KNOW THAT I REALLY **WAS** THERE -- BUT **LOST** ALL MY PHOTOS!

EASY, JONAH-- REMEMBER YOUR **BLOOD-PRESSURE!**

--WHEN **ICEMAN** HIT ME RIGHT SMACK IN THE **BELT-CAMERA,** WHILE I FOUGHT HIM AS **SPIDER-MAN!**

GOT A MOMENT TO SIT AND **CHAT,** PETE?

UH-- 'FRAID **NOT,** GLORY, NOT UNLESS YOU WANT TO WITNESS A **HIT-AND-RUN,** THAT IS!

OUT, PARKER! **O-U-T! OUT!**

JONAH HITS-- AND I RUN!

OUTSIDE THE DAILY BUGLE BUILDING, **PETER PARKER** REALIZES HE'S FACED ONLY THE **FIRST** OF THE DAY'S DILEMMAS...

JONAH'S **UPSET**--BUT NOT **HALF** AS BAD AS **I** AM! BLAST IT--I **NEEDED** THAT BONUS!

BUS STOP

WITH AUNT MAY STILL IN THE **HOSPITAL**--EVERY DAY BRINGS MORE **BILLS** FOR HER MEDICATION!*

*SEE **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN** FOR FURTHER DETAILS--JIM.

NOT ONLY THAT, BUT I ACCEPTED THE CALIFORNIA ASSIGNMENT WHEN I COULD **LEAST** AFFORD TO MISS OUT ON MY **STUDIES!**

FINALS ARE JUST A FEW MONTHS AWAY--

G-7

BUS STOP

--AND THEN COMES **GRADUATION**...IF I'M **LUCKY!** BUT THESE DAYS I **NEVER** AM!

WHAT'S **WRONG** WITH ME? I USED TO BE SUCH A **HOT-SHOT** WHEN IT CAME TO **SCHOOL!** IT WAS MY SUPER-HERO SIDE THAT TOOK ALL THE **HARD SHOTS!**

NOW IT SEEMS LIKE THE ONLY THING GOING **RIGHT** FOR ME IS **WEB-SLINGING!** WHAT A **TWIST!**

YOU SURE YOU GOT THAT **ADDRESS** RIGHT, MONTANA?

SURE AS **SHOOTIN'**, FANCY DAN!

THUS, OUR UNWITTING **ADVER-SARIES** PASS WITHIN **REACH** OF EACH OTHER, BUT NEVER **KNOW** IT. WHILE AT THE **WAREHOUSE** IN QUEENS...

THE **ENFORCERS** DO NOT REALIZE THAT THEIR TASK IS MERELY TO FLUSH YOU OUT OF **HIDING**, SPIDER-MAN--

--AND THAT, ONCE YOU'RE FOUND, THE HONOR OF **DESTROYING** YOU--

--WILL BE **MINE**... AND MINE **ALONE!**

AND, AT THE COFFEE BEAN CAFE, NEAR THE EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS...

Coffee BEAN COFFEE SHOP

HEY, BIG BOY-- LOOK WHO ELSE IS HERE!

HUH? OH, THE SAME TWO LOVE-BIRDS YOU ALMOST CONKED WITH YOUR FRISBEE IN THE PARK YESTERDAY! *

LAST ISH-- JIM.

YEAH--AND THEY'RE STILL AT IT TOO! LOOKS LIKE THEY HAVEN'T EVEN COME UP FOR AIR!

IS THAT JEALOUSY I HEAR IN THE VOICE OF HAPPY-GO-LUCKY HOLLY GILLIS?

Specia 85

NOT ON YOUR LIFE, HECTOR AYALA!

THIS IS ONE ART MAJOR WHO HAS NO DESIRE TO BE TIED DOWN TO ANYONE FOR VERY LONG!

¿SÍ? DO I GET TO TASTE THE SODA YOU'RE TREATING ME TO-- BEFORE YOU MOVE ON TO SOMEONE NEW?

I'LL GIVE YOU A FEW SECONDS' WARNING! I PROMISE!

¡MUCHAS GRACIAS, AMIGA!

WHILE, AT THE LOVEBIRDS' TABLE...

EVERYTHING'S GOING SO WELL FOR US, SHA SHAN, THAT I JUST CAN'T BELIEVE IT!

SINCE FINDING EMPLOYMENT IN THE PUBLIC LIBRARY --AND AN APARTMENT-- I, TOO, FEEL A SENSE OF PEACE, FLASH!

BUT WHAT IS THAT LETTER?

"IT'S FROM BUFORD--RAZORBACK! HE SAYS HE GOT A HERO'S WELCOME WHEN HE RETURNED TO TEXARKANA, ARKANSAS! *

"HE'S GOING TO STAY THERE AND PLAY AT BEING A HOME-TOWN HERO FOR A WHILE!"

WE OWE HIM SO MUCH! I HOPE HE WILL BE HAPPY--WHATEVER HE CHOOSES TO DO!

YEAH--AT LEAST AS HAPPY AS WE ARE! SHA SHAN, I-I'LL BE GRADU-ATING SOON AND... WELL...

YES, FLASH, MY LOVE?

*AFTER THE EVENTS DEPICTED IN ISSUE #'S 12-15 --JIM.

FLASH THOMPSON HAS NO TIME TO FIND THE PROPER WORDS FOR AT THAT VERY MOMENT...

BWRAK!

HOLY--! WHAT? WHO?!

DEY CALL ME... DA OX!

OX AIN'T GOT MUCH IN THE WAY O' MANNERS--SO I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO DO THE REST O' THE INTRODUCIN'!

MUH HANDLE'S... MONTANA!

AN' LAST-- BUT NOT LEAST-- MY MONICKER'S FANCY DAN!

THE KITCHEN EXIT'S COVERED, BOYS!

HEY! I KNOW YOU! YOU'RE THE ENFORCERS!

FLASH, PLEASE-- BE CAREFUL!

YOU HEARD DA, LADY, LOUDMOUTH!

WHUMP!

BE CAREFUL-- OR YOUSE COULD GET HURT!

U-UNHH!

ROUND UP ALL THE CUST-OMERS AN' STAFF IN THE FRONT ROOM!

YEAH, YEAH! LET'S GET ON WID IT!

FLASH!

I'M OKAY, BUT IF THE ENFORCERS ARE BACK, IT'S A SURE BET THAT THEY MUST BE AFTER SPIDEY!

KEE-RECT, PUNK! AN' ALL WE GOTTA DO IS REPORT THAT WE'RE HOLDIN' Y'ALL HOSTAGE--

--AN' THE WEB-SPINNER'LL COME A'RUNNIN'!

OYE! THESE HOMBRES DIDN'T COUNT ON THE WHITE TIGER BEING AMONG THEIR CAPTIVES!

BUT SOON--

HECTOR--SIT DOWN! YOU SAW WHAT THEY DID TO THAT STUDENT WHO GOT IN THEIR WAY!

LET SPIDER-MAN HANDLE THIS! IT'S HIS JOB TO GET KILLED--NOT YOURS!

SO YOU DO WANT ME AROUND FOR AWHILE, EH, CHICITA?

OKAY! SO I SIT THIS ONE OUT--UNLESS SPIDER-MAN DOESN'T SHOW!

AND, ONCE MONTANA'S MESSAGE HAS BEEN TRANSMITTED TO THE PRESS--AND, FROM THERE, TO THE POLICE...

SERGEANT, WE COULD END THIS WITH ONE GOOD CHARGE!

THIS ISN'T ENTEBBE, MISTER--IT'S MANHATTAN! THERE'S A HALF-DOZEN COLLEGE KIDS IN THERE!

OUR JOB IS TO CLEAR THE STREETS...AND AWAIT ORDERS!

THUS, WHILE THE MEDIA ACCEDES TO THE ENFORCER'S DEMANDS AND SATURATES THE AIRWAVES WITH THEIR CHALLENGE TO SPIDER-MAN--FATE, IN THE GUISE OF A DOUBLE-DECKER BUS--DROPS THE YOUTH IN QUESTION OFF AT THE CURB!

WHAT'S GOING ON, OFFICER?

GANG OF THUGS--THEY CALL THEMSELVES THE ENFORCERS--ARE HOLDIN' SOME KIDS HOSTAGE!

IN--IN THE COFFEE BEAN? WHAT DO THEY WANT??

THEY WANT SPIDER-MAN --THE WAY I HEAR IT!

NOW YOU BEST BEAT IT BEFORE IT GETS HOT AROUND--

--HERE...?

NYPD

SO FAR, SO GOOD! WITH ALL EYES ON THE COFFEE BEAN--

NO ONE SAW PETER PARKER TAKE TO THE TREES!

THE LEAVES WILL HIDE MY STREET CLOTHES!

IF ANY OF THOSE KIDS ARE HURT--

--THE ENFORCERS HAD BETTER BE READY FOR A SAVAGE SPIDEY!

WHILE, IN THE BELEAGURED MALT SHOP...

WHAT MAKES YOU THINK SPIDER-MAN WILL SHOW UP?

IT AIN'T OUR JOB TA THINK! WE'RE JUST FOLLOWIN' ORDERS!

ORDERS? WHOSE ORDERS?

SHUCKS! THAT WOULD BE TELLIN'!

WHAT-- WHAT IF SPIDER-MAN DOESN'T COME?

YOU'LL HAVE ME TO PROTECT YOU!

HECTOR-- THIS IS NO TIME FOR JOKES!

THAT WALL-CRAWLER BETTER SHOW SOON, OR I'LL--

SKRA-SH!

OR YOU'LL DO *WHAT*, LUMMOX? THROW A *TANTRUM*?!

SPIDER-MAN! HE'S HERE!!

WELL, YOU *INVITED ME*, DIDN'T YOU?!

GEEZ! WE-- WE FORGOT TA COVER THE SKYLIGHT!

WHY WORK YOURSELF UP INTO A *LATHER*, LITTLE MAN? I'M *HERE* --AND THAT'S WHAT YOU *WANTED*, ISN'T IT?

OR DO YOU *GET OFF* ON TERRORIZING *COLLEGE KIDS? THOMPSON!* I'M GOING TO NEED YOUR *HELP*, FELLA!

YOU GET THESE PEOPLE TO *SAFETY*, WHILE I KEEP AN EYE ON THE *ENFORCERS!*

SURE THING, SPIDEY! COME ON, FOLKS--LET'S *STAY* SAVED! *MOVE!*

BUT... WHAT ABOUT --*SPIDER-MAN?*

HE CAN TAKE CARE OF *HIMSELF*, SHA SHAN--

--I *HOPE!*

AM

HECTOR-- COME ON! WE'VE GOT TO GET *OUT* OF HERE!

I WANT TO *STAY* AND SEE WHAT *HAPPENS*, CHIQUITA!

WHAT--?! ARE YOU *CRAZY?!* THIS ISN'T HAPPENING ON *TV* OR IN SOME *COMIC BOOK!* IT'S FOR *REAL!*

¡SÍ-- YO *COMPRENDO!*

STILL, IT WILL BE MUY *FANTASTICO* TO HAVE A *RINGSIDE SEAT* WHILE SPIDER-MAN *SLUGS* IT OUT WITH *LOS DESPERADOS!*

BESIDES, HOLLY-- I THOUGHT YOU WOULD DO *ANYTHING* FOR KICKS!

BIG HAM

KICKS, YES-- BUT I'M NOT *SUICIDAL!* AND I DON'T LIKE *DEAD* BOYFRIENDS, EITHER! *G-GOODBYE*, HECTOR!

¡*BUENO!* WITH HOLLY GONE, I CAN BECOME THE *WHITE TIGER--*

--JUST IN CASE SPIDER-MAN NEEDS MY *HELP!*

DEY IS ALL *OUT*, WEB-SPINNER!

THEY WAS JUST *BAIT*, HOMBRE-- TO KETCH A *SPIDER!*

WELL, *COME ON*, THEN! WHICH OF YOU *THREE STOOGES* IS GOING TO BE THE *FIRST--*

--TO WAKE UP BACK BEHIND BARS?

AH, I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN! THE NEW OX IS JUST AS DUMB AS THE OLD ONE!

I AIN'T DUMB! NOBODY CALLS ME DUMB-- AN' LIVES!

DON'T TAKE IT PERSONALLY, BIG BOY! AS FAR AS I KNOW--

--YOU MAY BE THE BRAINS OF THIS OUTFIT!

KKOM!

YOU THINK Y'ALL ARE RIGHT FUNNY, DON'T'CHA-- DOIN' THET TO THE OX?!

DOIN' WHAT, MONTANA? I JUST GOT OUT OF HIS WAY! IT DOESN'T TAKE SKILL TO DEFEAT YOU LOSERS--

WHUNFF!

--JUST PATIENCE!

I MEAN, YOU GUYS SET YOURSELVES UP TO BE KNOCKED DOWN!

BUT, I GUESS FANCY DAN GETS A KICK OUT OF IT!

SAVE YER SPEECHES FOR THE HANGIN', WEBHEAD! YOU JEST BEEN INVITED TO A NECKTIE PARTY!

YOU'LL FORGIVE ME IF I DECLINE, MONTANA--

--BUT LYNCHING'S NOT EXACTLY TO MY LIKING!

THAT SINKS IT, WALL-CRAWLER! YOU'RE GONNA WAKE UP ON A SLAB IN DA MORGUE!

LET ME FINISH WITH YOUR PARTNER, HALF-PINT--

--AND THEN I'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU!

WHILE, UNOBSERVED BEHIND A TABLE ON THE FLOOR OF THE COFFEE BEAN...

HMM! I DON'T THINK EL TIGRE BLANCO WILL BE NEEDED AFTER ALL...!

BRAK!

SPIDER-MAN SEEMS TO BE DOING ALL RIGHT ALL BY HIMSELF!

FWAP!

IN FACT, HE'S DOING JUST FINE!

AND, ON THE STREET OUTSIDE...

SOUNDS LIKE A MASSACRE GOING ON IN THERE!

YEAH-- BUT WHO IS MASSACRING WHOM?!

Coffee B

SOMEBODY **DO** SOMETHING! THE BOY I **CAME HERE** WITH IS STILL **INSIDE!**

WHAT--?! YOU MEAN THAT HISPANIC **NIGHT STUDENT?!**

H-HIS NAME IS **HECTOR AYALA!** HE-- HE STAYED TO WATCH THE **FIGHT!**

WHY-- OF ALL THE **IDIOTIC IDEAS** I'VE EVER HEARD...!

MEANWHILE, AN EERILY GLOWING FIGURE WATCHES FROM A **WAREHOUSE** IN QUEENS...

SO! SPIDER-MAN ENTERED THE LUNCHEONETTE **UNSEEN** BY MY ENFORCERS OR BY THE **CROWD** OUTSIDE!

PERHAPS HE WAS **INSIDE** THE DINER THE ENTIRE TIME!

WE'LL HAVE TO WAIT TO SEE WHAT LIGHTMASTER'S NEXT MOVE WILL BE--

--FOR, BACK AT THE **COFFEE BEAN--**

YOU BLASTED **WEB-SLINGER!** I'M GONNA GIVE YA DA **BROOKLYN BASH!**

RUSH HIM, DAN! 'FORE HE GETS A CHANCE TA--

KRAK!

--MOVE...!

SHEESH! THAT'S WHAT I CALL A **MEETING** OF THE **MINDS!**

THEY **ACED** THEMSELVES RIGHT **OUT** OF THE FIGHT!

MENU

WHICH LEAVES JUST **YOU** AND **ME,** LAMEBRAIN!

STILL CALLIN' ME **NAMES,** HUH, WALL-CRAWLER?

RRRRHH!

WELL, I WASN'T REFERRING TO **MYSELF!**

YOUSE TINK YER MR. FUNNY --UNHH-- SUPER-HERO?

I KNOW YOUSE TINK YA GOT IT ALL OVER POOR SLOBS LIKE ME--

--BUT YA =GNNG= AIN'T, MISTER! TAKE AWAY YER FANCY COSTUME, AND THEN WHAT ARE YA?

I GIVE UP-- NAKED?

NO! YER NUTTIN'! JUST A SKINNY RUNT WHAT'S HAD ALL THE BREAKS WHILST SLOBS LIKE ME HAD TO BUST OUR CHOPS EVERY DAY OF OUR LIVES!

BUT DIS IS WHERE I PAYS YOU BACK, HERO!

RRRAAKKK!

DIS IS DA DAY DA OX MAKES A NAME FOR HISSELF!

WHAT WAS WRONG WITH THE OLD ONE? TOO HARD TO SPELL?

AARGHH! GET-- READY-- TA-- DIE-- WALL-CRAWLER!

OH, OX-- PLEASE GIVE ME ONE MORE CHANCE! YOU SEE, I HAVE A THEORY I'D LIKE TO TEST OUT!

A-- A... T'EORY?

YEAH! YOU SEE THE LAST OX HAD A GLASS JAW--

--AND I JUST WANTED TO FIND OUT IF YOU HAVE ONE, TOO!

KRUMP

GNNGG!

TSK! I GUESS YOU DO!

WELL, YOU'VE CERTAINLY MADE A NAME FOR YOURSELF, OX: DUMB!

¡OYÉ, MUCHACHO! THAT WAS MUY FANTASTICO! WHAT A FIGHT!

HUH? WERE YOU HERE THE WHOLE TIME?!!

SI! MY NAME IS HECTOR AYALA, SEÑOR!

I FOUND YOUR BATTLE MOST... INSTRUCTIVE!

GOOD FOR YOU! I HOPE IT HELPS YOU THE NEXT TIME YOU FIGHT A GROUP LIKE THE ENFORCERS!

LISTEN, ACE-- I'VE GOT THINGS TO DO TODAY--

--SO HOW ABOUT TELLING THE POLICE THAT THEY CAN COME IN NOW, HUH?

IT WILL BE A PLEASURE, MI AMIGO!

GREAT! MAYBE I'LL SEE YOU AROUND.

¡MARAVILLOSO! THOUGH WE FOUGHT TOGETHER* --HE DID NOT RECOGNIZE ME AS THE WHITE TIGER!

*ISSUE #'S 10 & 11 -- JIM.

AND, AS HECTOR EMERGES ALONE FROM THE DEMOLISHED DINER...

HE'S ALIVE!

WHAT HAPPENED IN THERE, SON?

YOU WILL FIND TRES HOMBRES WAITING TO BE TAKEN TO JAIL, JEFE--

--COMPLIMENTS OF EL SEÑOR SPIDER-MAN...!

A CLUMSY DECEPTION, MY FRIEND!

FOR, YOU SEE, I SPENT LONG MONTHS IN PRISON PONDERING OVER SPIDER-MAN'S IDENTITY UNTIL I WAS SURE THAT HE HAD TO BE A STUDENT AT THE UNIVERSITY.

A STUDENT OF ABOUT YOUR AGE, MY FRIEND! WAS IT COINCIDENCE THAT ONLY YOU--HECTOR AYALA--REMAINED INSIDE THE DINER DURING THE BATTLE? I THINK NOT!

I HAVE EVIDENCE ENOUGH! NOW IS THE TIME TO ACT ON IT!

FOR I-- LIGHTMASTER-- HAVE FINALLY DISCOVERED SPIDER-MAN'S MOST CAREFULLY GUARDED SECRET!

NEXT ISSUE: A CRISIS OF IDENTITY WITH NEAR-FATAL RESULTS! DON'T MISS...

WHERE WERE YOU WHEN THE LIGHTS WENT OUT?

THE SPECTACULAR SPIDERMAN ®

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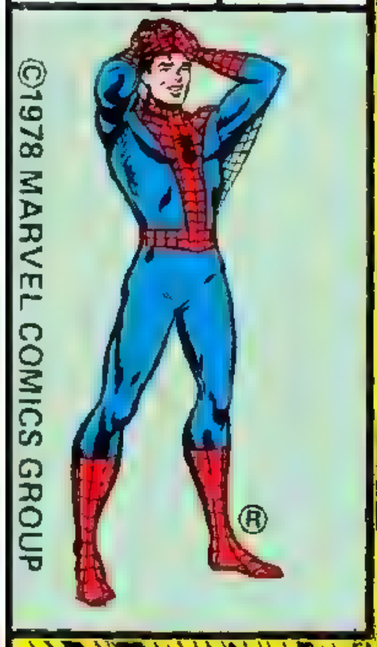

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PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN®

DEATH WAITS.. IN LIGHTMASTER'S LAIR!

ERNIE CHAN 1978

While attending a demonstration in radiology, student PETER PARKER was bitten by a spider which had accidentally been exposed to RADIOACTIVE RAYS. Through a miracle of science, Peter soon found that he had GAINED the arachnid's powers...and had, in effect, become a human spider...

Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN!

WHERE WERE YOU WHEN THE LIGHTS WENT OUT?

QUESTION: WHAT'S THE BEST WAY TO COME DOWN WITH *PNEUMONIA?*

ANSWER: BY HANGING AROUND ALL NIGHT ABOVE THE *METROPOLITAN POLICE STATION* WHILE IT'S *RAINING!*

STILL, I'M THE ONLY NEIGHBORHOOD *WEB-SLINGER* AROUND, HOW *ELSE* AM I GOING TO EAVES-DROP ON NEW YORK'S FINEST AS THEY *PUMP* THE *INFOR-MATION* I NEED OUT OF THE *ENFORCERS?*

ALL RIGHT, *MONTANA*, THIS IS LT. D'ANGELO SPEAK-ING. LET'S TRY YOUR STORY *AGAIN*... FROM THE *TOP!*

STORY:
BILL MANTLO.
SAL BUSCEMA & MIKE ESPOSITO
ART.
I. WATANABE,
LETTERER.
DON WARFIELD
COLORIST.
JIM SHOOTER,
EDITOR.

YOU, **FANCY DAN** AND THE **OX**, ATTACKED AN OFF-CAMPUS DINER CALLED THE **COFFEE BEAN.** WE WANT TO KNOW **WHY?**

WE WUZ POWERFUL **HUNGRY,** LIEUTENANT!

ONCE THERE, THREE OF YOU **TERRORIZED** AND HELD **HOSTAGE** A GROUP OF **COLLEGE STUDENTS** --THEN ISSUED AN **ULTIMATUM** TO **SPIDER-MAN!**

THE **WEB-SPINNER** SHOWED UP--AND **PULVERIZED** YOU!*

DUMB LUCK, DAT'S ALL IT WUZ!

*AS RECOUNTED **LAST ISH**--JIM.

THAT'S NOT THE WAY **WE** HEARD IT, OX--

--BUT YOU LOSERS ARE ENTITLED TO YOUR **FANTASIES!** WHAT **WE** WANT TO **KNOW** IS--

AH! THIS IS THE PART I'VE BEEN **WAITING** FOR!

"--**WHO** WERE YOU **WORKING FOR?** WE **KNOW** YOU DIDN'T DREAM UP THIS LITTLE CAPER ON YOUR **OWN** BECAUSE, WHEN ONE OF THE STUDENTS ASKED YOU WHY YOU FELT **SURE** SPIDER-MAN WOULD **SHOW,** YOU ANSWERED..."

IT AIN'T **OUR JOB** TA **THINK!** WEAH JEST FOLLOWIN' **ORDERS!**

WHO-- **WHOSE** ORDERS?

SHUCKS! THAT WOULD BE **TELLIN'!**

NOTHING! THEY KEEP **SHUTTING UP** TIGHTER THAN **CLAMS!**

WELL, LIEUTENANT D'ANGELO--**YOU'RE** IN CHARGE! DO WE START ALL **OVER** AGAIN...OR GIVE IT A **REST?**

WE START **OVER** UNTIL WE **CRACK 'EM!**

NO! OX CAN'T **STAND** NO MORE **QUESTIONS!** I WANT TO **SLEEP!**

HESH UP, YA BIG LUMMOX! WE AIN'T GOT **NUTHIN' T' SAY,** Y'HEAR?

I DON'T THINK THE OX HAS **TALKIN'** IN MIND, MONTANA!

I THINK HE WANTS **OUT!**

OUT--YES! OUT IS WHAT OX WANTS!

L-LIEUTENANT--! THE BIG GUY IS GOIN' WILD!

TROOM!

RELAX, SERGEANT! THAT PARTITION IS MADE OF MAXI-GLASS--DESIGNED BY TONY STARK!

IT COULD RESTRAIN THE CHARGE OF A RAM-PAGING BULL ELE-PHANT!

TWOOM!

M-MAYBE SO, SIR-- B-BUT IT ISN'T HOLDING BACK THE OX!!

TWAACK!

SWEET MOTHER OF MERCY! GET THE RIOT GUNS UP HERE--ON THE DOUBLE!

THE OX IS BUSTING OUT!!

SMASH!

ALL REET! IT'S JUST LIKE OLD TIMES AGAIN!

BUT, BEFORE THE ENFORCERS CAN GAL-VANIZE INTO ACTION, THE POLICE RECOVER FROM THEIR SURPRISE-

KLIK

--AND THE TERRIBLE TRIO HAS LOST THEIR CHANCE AT ESCAPE!

:C-CHOKE: --GAS!

NO--DEY CAN'T! IT AIN'T FAIR!

W--WE LOSE ...BUT WE AIN'T SQUEALED ON DA BOSS!

THEY'RE OUT, LIEUTENANT D'ANGELO! IT TOOK ONLY SECONDS FOR THAT STUFF TO PUT THEM UNDER!

THAT'S ANOTHER POINT WE OWE STARK! THE GAS WAS HIS IDEA, AND IT STOPPED THEM COLD! THEY'LL WAKE UP WITH HEALTHY HEADACHES--

--BUT IT'LL BE A FEW **HOURS** BEFORE WE GET ANYTHING **OUT** OF THEM!

THERE ARE **OTHERS** **WAYS**, D'ANGELO-- **FASTER** WAYS!

HEY, JACK-- EVEN **CRIMINALS** HAVE **RIGHTS**...OR HAVEN'T YOU **HEARD?**

AND, OUTSIDE...

THAT **D'ANGELO** IS A **TOUGH** **COP**--AND A **FAIR** ONE! HE KNOWS HIS **JOB**--

--BUT I'M **SOAKED** TO THE **SKIN**... AND I **STILL** HAVEN'T LEARNED THE ANSWERS I **HUNG AROUND** HERE FOR!

(A) WHO WAS **BEHIND** THE ENFORCERS?--

--**(B)** HOW DID HE KNOW SPIDER-MAN WOULD **RESPOND** IF HE PLACED **ESU STUDENTS** IN **DANGER?**--

--AND **(C)** **WHAT** IS THIS MYSTERY MAN PLANNING **NEXT?**

WELL, THOSE'RE ALL QUESTIONS FOR THIS WEARY WEB-SPINNER'S **BRAIN** TO **SLEEP ON** UNTIL TOMORROW! I'M **BUSHED**--

--AND, LIKE THE MAN SAID: BE IT EVER SO **HUMBLE**--

"--THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE **HOME!**"

KRRRR...

HUH? THE **RAIN** HAS SEEPED IN THROUGH THE **SKY-LIGHT**--**SOAKING** MY **BATHROOM CEILING!**

"RAAKKK"

THE--THE **WET PLASTER** CAN'T HOLD MY **WEIGHT!** IT'S GONNA GIVE--

"--WAY!!"

KRUMP!

SAINTS PRESERVE US!!

THAT DOES IT! I USUALLY SLEEP LIKE A LOG! THERE AIN'T NUTHIN' A TENANT CAN DO TA WAKE ME--

--BUT DROPPIN' A BOWLING BALL OVER MY BEDROOM AT THIS TIME O' NIGHT, THAT WOULD DO IT!

RAP RAP RAP RAP RAP

OPEN UP IN THERE, PETER PARKER!

ER--UH--HI, MRS. MUGGINS! HOW'S MY FAVORITE LANDLADY?

I WENT TO BED WITH A HEADACHE--

--AN' NOW I GOT A MI-GRAINE! JUST WHAT ARE YOU UP TO?

W-WOULD YOU BELIEVE... A SHOWER?

I GOT EYES! YOU'RE A PHYSICS STUDENT, AIN'TCHA? WHADDA YOU BATHE IN... HEAVY WATER??

N-NO MA'AM! IT WAS THE SOUND OF THE BATHROOM CEILING CAVING IN THAT WOKE YOU!

THE STEAM FROM THE SHOWER MUST HAVE WEAKENED THE PLASTER!

STEAM MY GREAT AUNT FANNY! YOU LEFT THE SKYLIGHT OPEN AGAIN-- IN A THUNDERSTORM YET!

WELL, MY BARNEY'S GOT HISSELF A PART-TIME JOB THESE DAYS! HE AIN'T GOT THE TIME TO BE FIXIN' THE MISTAKES O' CARELESS TENANTS LIKE YOU!

YOU COME SEE ME IN THE MORNIN' FOR A **LADDER** AN' SOME **PLASTER!** THEN **YOU** DO THE **REPAIR WORK--**

--AN' I WON'T **DEDUCT** IT FROM YOUR **RENT!**

YES, MRS. MUGGINS! **THANK YOU,** MRS. MUGGINS!

÷ **PHEW!** ÷

AND A FEW MOMENTS LATER...

OH NO! THE **SUN** IS COMING UP ALREADY! I'D BETTER PUT MY **SPIDEY COSTUME** ON THE RADIATOR TO **DRY,** AND GET SOME **SLEEP!**

GOOD THING MY FIRST **CLASS** ISN'T UNTIL **TWO O'CLOCK!**

AND, AS **PETER PARKER** SHUTS HIS **EYES** TO THE BREAKING **DAY...**

--WE SHIFT OUR ATTENTION TO AN **ABANDONED FACTORY** IN LONG ISLAND CITY, QUEENS--

Light INC.

--WHERE, WERE WE TO **LISTEN IN** AT ONE OF THE GRIMY WINDOWS ON THE BUILDING'S UPPER FLOOR, WE WOULD BE **ASTONISHED** TO HEAR...

THE ENFORCERS PERFORMED THE LIMITED TASK I ENTRUSTED TO THEM, JUST AS I **EXPECTED--**

--THEY BROUGHT **SPIDER-MAN** OUT INTO THE **OPEN!**

BUT NOW, WITH THEIR **DEFEAT** AND **CAPTURE,** THEY HAVE OUTLIVED THEIR **USEFULNESS!**

IT IS SPIDER-MAN **ALONE** WHO NOW CONCERNS ME-- AND **REVENGE** UPON HIM IS MY MOST FERVENT **DESIRE!**

REVENGE FOR THE MONTHS I LANGUISHED IN **PRISON,** PONDERING OVER MY **DEFEAT** AT THE WEB-SPINNER'S **HANDS**--MONTHS WHERE I EVOLVED MY **PLAN** TO **SMASH HIM--**

PLAYBACK

PLAYBACK

PLAYBACK

--BY DISCOVERING HIS **SECRET IDENTITY...** AND **REVEALING** IT TO THE **WORLD!**

AND I HAVE **DONE** THE IMPOSSIBLE! I KNOW **WHO** SPIDER-MAN IS BENEATH THE **MASK!**

SPIDER-MAN IS AN EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY **STUDENT** NAMED...**HECTOR AYALA!!**

AND, ONCE I HAVE ***EXPOSED*** WHO HE REALLY ***IS***--

--THERE WILL BE ***NO PLACE*** WHERE HE WILL BE ***SAFE!*** ***PETTY CRIMINALS*** WILL HUNT HIM DOWN THROUGH HIS ***FRIENDS*** AND ***LOVED ONES!***

IT WAS WEEKS AFTER MY DEFEAT BEFORE THE ***CHANGE*** BEGAN--BUT THEN, MY VERY ***ATOMS*** BEGAN TO ***SCATTER*** FROM ME! I MUST SURROUND MYSELF WITH ***LIGHT*** AT ALL TIMES MERELY TO ***STAY ALIVE!***

AND IT IS ***YOUR FAULT,*** SPIDER-MAN!

HE WILL ***SUFFER*** AS I-- ***EDWARD LANSKY,*** WHO ONCE WAS VICE-CHANCELLOR OF EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY --AS I HAVE SUFFERED SINCE THE ***ACCIDENT*** BY WHICH HE ***DEFEATED*** ME! *

THAT ACCIDENT TURNED ***LIGHTMASTER*** INTO A BEING OF ***PURE,*** UNSTABLE ENERGY AND THAT IS WHO I AM NOW-- ***LIGHTMASTER***--THAT ACCIDENT ENDED MY LIFE AS EDWARD LANSKY

*PPTSS #3--JIM.

YOURS!

RAVING MANIACALLY, ***LIGHTMASTER*** STREAKS TOWARDS ***MANHATTAN***--

--WHERE ***WE*** CATCH UP WITH SOMEWHAT ***PUNCHY*** PETER PARKER, ALREADY ***LATE*** FOR CLASS...

HEY, ***PETE***--***HI,*** C'MERE--THERE'S SOME ***FOLKS*** I WANT YOU TO ***MEET!***

AHH-CHOO!

OTAY, FLASH --BUD I CAN ONLY SPARE A ***MINNUD!***

GOT A ***COLD,*** HUH?

YEAH--FROM WEARING A ***DAMP SPIDEY-SUIT*** UNDER MY ***CLOTHES!***

THIS IS ***HECTOR AYALA***--A NIGHT SCHOOL STUDENT--AND ***HOLLY GILLIS*** FROM THE ART SCHOOL!

PLEASED TO MEET YOU, SENÕR.

HMMM! ME, ***TOO!***

AYALA'S THE KID WHO ***STAYED*** IN THE COFFEE BEAN DURING MY ***FIGHT*** WITH THE ENFORCERS! *

*LAST ISH--JIM.

DON'T WE ***KNOW*** EACH OTHER, AMIGO?

NO, I DON'T THINK--***WAIT!*** SURE--WE MET AT THAT ***DEMONSTRATION*** OVER THE ***CLOS-ING*** OF THE NIGHT SCHOOL! *

*PPTSS #9--JIM.

FLASH AND HIS GIRL FRIEND ***SHA SHAN*** HAVE TOLD US ALL ABOUT YOU, PETE!

ALL ABOUT ME, HOLLY?

WELL, WHAT THEY ***LEFT OUT***-- ***YOU*** CAN FILL ME IN OVER A ***SLOW*** CUP OF COFFEE!

¡OYÉ! YOU DON'T WASTE ANY TIME, CHICITA!

I TOLD YOU, HECTOR--THERE ARE NO STRINGS ON ME! I SEE WHO I LIKE--

--AND I LIKE PETER PARKER!

UH, FLASH--I'VE GOT A CLASS TO GED TO...

BUT PETE'S CLASS WILL HAVE TO WAIT! FOR SUDDENLY...

H-HECTOR! THAT LIGHT... WHAT--?!

¡Y-YO NO SE, AMIGA! B-BUT IT HAS FORMED A CAGE ABOUT ME!

I CAN'T BREAK FREE!

PRECISELY, SPIDER-MAN! AGAINST MY POWERS OF LIGHT, YOUR STRUGGLES ARE IN VAIN!

LIGHTMASTER!?

IS--IS HE TALKING TO ME? HAS HE SOMEHOW DISCOVERED MY SECRET IDENTITY?!

NO! IT'S AYALA HE'S AFTER! HE THINKS HECTOR IS SPIDER-MAN ...B-BUT WHY??

(Q-QUE QUIERE USTED?) WHAT DO YOU WANT OF ME?!

I WANT YOU ON YOUR KNEES, WALL-CRAWLER! YES, I KNOW WHO YOU ARE!

THE ONLY WAY YOU COULD HAVE GUESSED MY IDENTITY WHEN FIRST WE FOUGHT, WOULD BE TO HAVE HAD INTIMATE KNOWLEDGE OF THE PERSONNEL OF THIS UNIVERSITY!

UNHH! MY--MY AMULETS!

I STUDIED REPORTS ON YOU DURING LONG HOURS IN THE PRISON LIBRARY--

--AND I DEDUCED YOUR AGE AS TOO YOUNG FOR YOU TO BE ONE OF ESU'S FACULTY MEMBERS!

HOLLY, STAY BACK!

FLASH, HE--HE'S KILLING HECTOR!

--THERE WAS ONLY **ONE** POSSIBILITY LEFT... YOU HAD TO BE ONE OF THE **STUDENTS!**

THEN, WHILE MY **ENFORCERS** ALLOWED THE STUDENT HOSTAGES TO LEAVE THE **COFFEE BEAN,** PRIOR TO THEIR **DEFEAT--**

--I WATCHED THE **TELEVISION BROADCASTS** FROM AFAR! I DID NOT SEE SPIDER-MAN **ENTER** OR **LEAVE** THE DINER!

WHY? BECAUSE **YOU,** HECTOR AYALA-- WERE ALREADY **INSIDE--**

--AND THERE YOU **REMAINED** THROUGHOUT THE **ENTIRE** BATTLE!

SO **THAT'S IT!** HECTOR STAYED BEHIND TO WATCH ME **FIGHT** THE **ENFORCERS--***

*ALSO LAST ISH--JIM.

BACK! DO NOT **INTERFERE...!**

--AND NOW HE MAY HAVE TO **PAY** FOR HIS INDISCRETION... WITH HIS **LIFE!**

UNGHH!

FWIP!

BE **THANKFUL** THAT YOU YET **LIVE!**

CAN'T TAKE A CHANCE ON **STOPPING HIM** AS **PETER PARKER--** BUT I GOT MY **SPIDER-TRACER** ON **HECTOR** WITHOUT LIGHTMASTER **SEEING** IT! THAT'S **ALL** I CAN DO--FOR **NOW!**

ENOUGH! I **HAVE** HE FOR WHOM I **CAME!** TAKE A LAST LOOK AT **SPIDER-MAN,** FOOLS--

--UNTIL **TONIGHT!**

TONIGHT?

THAT MEANS I'VE ONLY **HOURS** TO STOP WHATEVER **INSANITY** LIGHTMASTER'S GOT PLANNED!

EASY, HOLLY! WE'LL GET HIM **BACK!**

I--I DON'T **UNDERSTAND** THIS! I--I HARDLY **KNOW** HECTOR--

--A-AND I DON'T WANT TO **CARE** ABOUT HIM... B-BUT **I DO!**

THAT FIGURES! THE **PLAY** SHE MADE FOR ME WAS JUST MEANT TO MAKE HECTOR **JEALOUS!** POOR KID--SHE'S **TORN UP** ABOUT IT NOW!

I'LL TAKE HER TO SHA SHAN'S PLACE, PETE! YOU CALL THE **COPS!**

H-HERE-- GIVE THEM **THESE!** THEY **BELONG** TO HECTOR!

HUH? **AMULETS?**

HOLY SMOKES! I-- I **KNOW** WHAT THESE **ARE!!**

THE 59TH STREET BRIDGE, HOURS LATER...

C'MON, MAC-- MOVE ALONG! WHATCHA **STARIN'** AT!

A-A-AT--

--**HIM,** OFFICER!

OUT-OF-TOWNERS HUH? WELL-- YOU GET **USED** TO SEEING THIS KIND OF THING AFTER AWHILE!

I'VE FINALLY PICKED UP THE **SIGNAL** FROM MY **SPIDER-TRACER!**

EVERY TIME I SWING PAST THE **BRIDGE,** THE PULSE BECOMES **STRONGER--**

ACME INC. WAREHOOSE

--AND IT IS LEADING ME TOWARDS **LONG ISLAND CITY!**

THERE ARE *HUNDREDS* OF WAREHOUSES AND FACTORIES...AND LIGHTMASTER COULD BE *HIDING* IN ANY ONE OF THEM!

IT COULD TAKE ME *ALL NIGHT* TO FIND THE *RIGHT PLACE*--

BUT *HECTOR* MAY NOT *HAVE* ALL NIGHT! HEY--*WAIT A MINUTE!*

Light INC.

HIT ME WITH A *BRICK!* HOW *UN-SUBTLE* CAN YOU GET?!

WHY DIDN'T LIGHTMASTER JUST DRAW ME A *ROAD-MAP?*

BECAUSE HE SAW *NO NEED* TO CONCEAL HIS TRACKS FROM *ME,* THAT'S WHY!

WHEN HE KIDNAPPED *HECTOR*--HE THOUGHT HE ALREADY HAD *SPIDER-MAN* IN HIS GRASP!

OF COURSE, LANSKY DOESN'T SEEM TO BE *THINKING* TOO *CLEARLY!* HE SOUNDED *UNSTABLE*--LIKE A MAN ON THE VERGE OF *COMING APART!*

SHEESH! I'M STARTING TO SOUND LIKE THE *AMAZING SPIDER-FREUD!*

*SILENTLY CLINGING TO THE **OUT-SIDE WALL,** SPIDEY PEERS INTO THE BRILLIANTIY-LIT **INTERIOR**--*

--OF A **FACTORY STOREHOUSE** THAT ONCE MANUFACTURED **COMPUTER-LIGHT DISPLAY BOARDS** FOR SPORTS EVENTS AND BILLBOARDS...A BUILDING THAT HAS NOW FALLEN INTO **DISUSE**--

--SAVE AS A **STRONG-HOLD** FOR **LIGHT-MASTER!**

RISE, SPIDER-MAN! CEASE YOUR GROVELLING...**RISE!**

I--I KEEP **TELLIN' YOU,** AMIGO--I **AIN'T** SPIDER-MAN! I'M JUST A POOR **PUERTO RICAN--**

--AN' I'M **SICK!**

THE **SAME** KINDA SICK I GET WHENEVER I **LOSE** MY **AMULETS!**

WHILE, ON THE CEILING ABOVE...

HECTOR'S **NOT JOKING**--OR TRYING TO **STALL** FOR TIME! HE **IS** SICK--

--BUT...DOES THAT MEAN I WAS **WRONG** ABOUT...**THESE??**

NO! MY **SPIDER-SENSE** CLEARLY DETECTED THE **POWER** THESE AMULETS HOLD!

AND I'VE **SEEN THEM** BEFORE!

HECTOR **MUST BE** WHO I **THINK** HE IS--

"--BUT THERE'S ONLY **ONE WAY** I'M GONNA FIND OUT FOR **SURE...!**"

HEAR ME, HECTOR AYALA--THIS **CHARADE** WILL DO YOU **NO GOOD!**

I HAVE STOCKED THIS WAREHOUSE WITH **TV-CAMERAS!**

WITHIN **MOMENTS,** MY INCREDIBLE **LIGHT-POWER** WILL TIE US INTO ALL LOCAL PRIME-TIME **TELEVISION BROADCAST STATIONS--**

--AND, BEFORE **MILLIONS** OF ASTONISHED **VIEWERS**, I WILL **FORCE YOU** TO REVEAL YOURSELF AS **SPIDER-MAN!**

YOU, WHO **ROBBED ME** OF MY **HUMANITY**... AND MADE ME INTO A CREATURE OF **LIGHT!**

AND, IN SHA SHAN'S APARTMENT ON MANHATTAN'S UPPER WEST SIDE...

LIGHTMASTER SAID HE'D **BROADCAST** ON MANHATTAN'S UPPER WEST SIDE...

L-LOOK! THE **PICTURE** IS FADING...BEING **REPLACED** BY--!

I AM... LIGHTMASTER!

AND **TONIGHT** I WILL **REVEAL** TO THE WORLD--

--THE **SECRET IDENTITY** OF THE **SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN!**

OH, **HECTOR!** NO! **NO!**

YOU **CAN'T** BE **SPIDER-MAN!** PLEASE...!

HE'S NOT--

--AS WE'RE ALL ABOUT TO **SEE!**

GOTTA MOVE **FAST**--BEFORE **GOLDEN BOY** TURNS BACK TO **HECTOR!**

I'M RIGHT **ABOVE HIM** NOW...!

G-GNNGG!

SUDDENLY, AS **HECTOR AYALA** RAISES HIS FEVERISH EYES, THREE GLOWING **PENDANTS** ARE LOWERED BEFORE HIM ON A THIN STRAND OF **WEBBING!**

¡C-CARAJO! ¡LOS AMULETES DEL TIGRE!

M-MY **TIGER AMULETS!** BUT... **WHO--??!!**

GLANCING **UP,** THE YOUNG HISPANIC SPIES HIS **SAVIOR** CLINGING TO THE **RAFTERS!**

THE TWO EXCHANGE NO WORDS! HECTOR AYALA DONS THE GLEAMING NECKLACE--

--AND, **BEHIND** THE RAVING **LIGHTMASTER**, THERE IS A BURST OF **BRILLIANCE** THAT **RIVALS** HIS OWN!

CRIMINALS-- OBSERVE! THIS IS A MOMENT FOR **HISTORY!**

FOR I GIVE INTO YOUR HANDS A WELL-KEPT **SECRET** --THAT YOU MAY **KNOW** HE WHO HAS BEEN THE **BANE** OF YOUR **LIVES!**

ALL OF YOU WILL KNOW WHO HAS **THWARTED** YOU-- **INTIMI-DATED** YOU-- **JAILED YOU!**

I GIVE YOU A **NON-ENTITY** NAMED... **HECTOR AYALA!** FOR IT IS **HE** WHO IS **BETTER KNOWN** TO YOU AS THE AC-CURSED, **WALL-CRAWLING--**

--SPIDER-MAN...?!

I **TOLD** YOU YOU WERE MAKING A **MISTAKE**, SEÑOR!

HECTOR AYALA IS **NOT** SPIDER-MAN!

HE IS... **THE WHITE TIGER!!**

NO! IT-- IT **CAN'T BE!**

BUT IT **IS**, HOLLY! LIGHTMASTER **DID** UNMASK A **SUPER-HERO...** ONLY THING IS, IT WAS THE **WRONG ONE!**

THEN--THEN HECTOR **DE-CEIVED** ME! HE LED ME TO BELIEVE HE WAS IN **DANGER**, WHEN ALL ALONG...!

I--I **HATE HIM!** I NEVER WANT TO **SEE HIM** AGAIN!

SO MUCH FOR THE CONSISTENCY OF HOLLY JACKSON!

NOW WHAT SAY WE CUT BACK TO...

SWOK

HOW YA **DOIN'**, TIGER?

¡MUY BIEN, AMIGO! **¡GRACIAS!**

ANYTHING **I** CAN DO TO **HELP?**

SPIDER-MAN-- HERE??!

BRAK

NO, TIGER--THANKS! BUT THIS NUT HAS PUT ME THROUGH A LOT OF GRIEF LATELY--

--AND TAKING OUT HIS ENFORCERS DIDN'T QUITE MAKE UP FOR IT!*

FOOL! THEY WERE MERELY EMPLOYED TO FIND YOU--

--WHEREAS I HAVE THE POWER TO KILL YOU!

*LAST ISH--JIM.

HE MEANS IT, SEÑOR! YOU ARE NOT DEALING WITH A MAN IN A COSTUME NOW--BUT A BEING OF PURE LIGHT!

YEAH, TIGER--

--I'M BEGINNING TO NOTICE THAT!

YOU FORGOT MY POWER TO CREATE OBJECTS OF SOLID LIGHT, EH, WEB-SPINNER?

NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, SUNSHINE--YES!

THEN ALLOW ME TO GIVE YOU YET ANOTHER REMINDER--

--OF WHAT YOU HAVE TURNED ME INTO!!

WHOM!

BELIEVE ME, LANSKY--I DON'T NEED TO BE REMINDED!

BUT MAYBE IF YOU HADN'T BEEN TRYING TO KILL ME--*

*PPTSS #3--JIM.

--YOU WOULDN'T BE IN THE SHAPE YOU'RE IN NOW!

THIS IS GETTING ME *NOWHERE!*

LIGHTMASTER IS TOO FAR *GONE* FOR MY *JOKES* TO THROW HIM *OFF BALANCE--*

--AND I CAN'T CONTINUE TO *MANUEVER* OUT OF THE WAY OF HIS *LIGHT BURSTS* IN THE CONFINES OF THIS *WAREHOUSE!*

I'VE GOT TO DRAW HIM *OUTSIDE-- AWAY* FROM THIS *LIGHT SOURCE...*AND INTO THE *NIGHT--!*

--OUT INTO *MY ELEMENT!*

THIS *CEILING-VENT* SHOULD PROVE THE *PERFECT* WAY *OUT!*

SHRAK!

WHAT--? WHERE--?! OH, *NO!* THAT WASN'T A *VENT--*

--IT WAS THE *ACCESS-HATCH* TO THE *ROOF DISPLAY!* I'VE CRAWLED INSIDE THE GIANT *LIGHT BULB APPARATUS!*

LIKE MINDLESS *CATTLE,* YOU HAVE ALLOWED YOURSELF TO BE *HERDED* BY MY *LIGHT-BURSTS--*

--TO YOUR *DOOM,* WALL-CRAWLER!

THE ROOF-DISPLAY IS NOT MADE OF *GLASS* --BUT OF AN *UNBREAKABLE PLASTIC!*

IT WILL NOT MELT UNDER THE INCREDIBLE HEAT GENERATED BY MY CONCENTRATED LIGHT--

--BUT YOU, SPIDER-MAN... WILL!!

HE--HE'S TURNING ON THE J-JUICE!

I'LL BE FRIED IN SECONDS!

I HAVE HELD BACK LONG ENOUGH! EL HOMBRE ARANA NEEDS ME! IT IS TIME--

--FOR THE WHITE TIGER TO ENTER THE FRAY!

THE TIGER LEAPS--

--AS LIGHTMASTER INCREASES HIS POWER--

--AND NEW YORK CITY GOES BLACK...ALL AT ONCE!

ZIP

ZIP

ZIP

THE HEAT'S OFF! BUT WHAT HAPPENED--?!

A BLACKOUT, MI AMIGO--JUST AS I LEAPED! LIGHT-MASTER OVER-LOADED THE CITY'S BACK-UP POWER SYSTEMS IN THIS AREA...

...AND KNOCKED OUT THE ENTIRE METRO-POLITAN GRID! WITHOUT LIGHT SURROUND-ING HIM--

--THERE WAS NO WAY HE COULD HOLD HIS MOLECULAR STRUCTURE TOGETHER!

HE'S FADING EVEN NOW--AND THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO TO HELP HIM!

LIGHTMASTER DESTROYED HIMSELF!

NEXT ISSUE: SCORPION RISING!

THE SPECTACULAR SPIDERMAN ®

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PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN®

SCREAM SCORPION!

While attending a demonstration in radiology, student PETER PARKER was bitten by a spider which had accidentally been exposed to RADIOACTIVE RAYS. Through a miracle of science, Peter soon found that he had GAINED the arachnid's powers...and had, in effect. become a human spider...

Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN!

BILL MANTLO SPIDER-WRITER * JIM MOONEY & MIKE ESPOSITO ARACHNID-ARTISTS * JOE ROSEN, LETTERS D. WARFIELD, COLORS * JIM SHOOTER EIGHT-LEGGED EDITING

STILL CRAZY AFTER ALL THESE YEARS

NOTE: YOU ARE LOOKING AT A VERY DISTURBED GREEN GENTLE-MAN!

H-HOW LONG HAVE I BEEN IN THIS STINKING SEWER?! WEEKS... MONTHS... YEARS?!

A LIFE-TIME?!

C-907

AAARHH-- YES! A LIFE-TIME OF AGONY AND PAIN--

KRRAK!

HE GAVE ME THE POWER, TOO-- TO REND, TO TEAR, TO CRUSH--

--TO SMASH!

KTROOM!

--SINCE HE MADE ME THE MONSTER I AM!!

THE SCORPION!

AND I ACCEPTED IT... FOR MONEY!

FOR MONEY I TRADED AWAY A LIFE OF NORMALCY!

HIS MONEY!!

BECAUSE OF HIM I CAN NEVER LEAD A NORMAL LIFE...

...NEVER FEEL THE SUN ON MY SKIN...

...NEVER MINGLE WITH MY *FELLOW-HUMANS* WITHOUT BEING *STARED* AT--*HATED*--*FEARED!*

I'VE BEEN SET APART FROM THE *REST* OF HUMANITY BY A LOUSY *GREEN COSTUME!*

A COSTUME THAT *DOESN'T* COME *OFF!!*

DIMLY--AS THROUGH A GLASS DARKLY--THE SCORPION REMEMBERS...

...HOW PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR *MAC GARGAN* WAS TURNED INTO THE SINISTER *SCORPION--**

*AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #20--JIM.

--SO THAT J. JONAH JAMESON COULD SEND HIM AFTER *SPIDER-MAN!*

*BUT SOMETHING WENT WRONG! THE CHANGE AWOKE A *KILLER-INSTINCT* IN GARGAN--

--AND HE *TURNED* ON JAMESON... THE ONLY MAN WHO *KNEW* HIS *SECRET!*

*BUT IT WAS SPIDER-MAN HIMSELF WHO *SAVED* JAMESON THAT TIME--

--AND A *WOMAN*... *MS. MARVEL*--

--WHO THWARTED HIS *LAST* ATTEMPT ON THE PUBLISHER'S *LIFE!**

*MS. MARVEL #'S 1&2 --JIM.

I'VE *HID OUT* DOWN HERE SINCE THEN--MY BODY *BURNIN'* FROM THE *ACID* THAT *MARVEL* CHICK DUMPED ME IN! AN' DESPITE ALL THE *PAIN*, I AIN'T *NEVER* FORGOTTEN--

--THAT IT WAS *JAMESON* WHO MADE ME A *FREAK*... AN *OUTCAST!*

AN' IF *I* CAN'T ENJOY *MY LIFE*--

--*HE* SURE AS SPIT AIN'T GONNA ENJOY *HIS!*

SO SWEARS THE SCORPION!

AND, AS THE SCORPION SCHEMES FAR INTO THE NIGHT... WE MOVE ON TO EARLY THE NEXT MORNING--

--WHERE, WE TURN OUR GAZE UPWARDS TO THE DAWNING SKY ABOVE FOREST HILLS, QUEENS--

--WE SEE A LITHE AND COLORFUL FIGURE SWING THROUGH SPACE ON A SLENDER LINE OF WEBBING--

--THEN DROP, UNSEEN, TO THE ROOF-TOP OF A CERTAIN APARTMENT BUILDING!

I'M ON TIME... FOR ONCE!

KEEPING APPOINTMENTS ISN'T EXACTLY MY FORTE ESPECIALLY AFTER MY BATTLE WITH ROCKET RACER COST ME ALL BUT THREE HOURS SLEEP--*

*SEE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #183--JIM.

--BUT I'VE GOT TWO LOVELY LADIES COUNTING ON PETER PARKER TODAY--

--AND I DON'T INTEND TO DISAPPOINT EITHER ONE!

--THEN HE HEADS FOR THE ROOF-DOOR OF THE APARTMENT BUILDING--

--HIS THOUGHTS (LIKE THE THOUGHTS OF MOST YOUNG MEN IN LOVE) FAR, FAR AWAY!

QUICKLY, PETER CHANGES TO THE CLOTHES HE'S WEB-PACKED ALONG WITH HIM--

SO FAR THAT IT MAY BE SOME TIME BEFORE HE NOTICES THAT HE'S MISLAID SOMETHING--THE LOSS OF WHICH MAY COST HIM HIS LIFE!

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WHILE WAITING FOR OUR HERO A FEW FLOORS BELOW...

FIRE EXIT

MARY JANE--I'M HERE!

HEYYY! AND YOU ONLY KEPT ME WAITING FIVE MINUTES! A NEW WORLD'S RECORD, TIGER!

SORRY, MJ! THE ELEVATOR WAS TOO SLOW, SO I TOOK THE STAIRS, AND...

WHO CARES FROM STAIRS? KISS ME, HUH?

KISS THEY DO--

--AND THEN PETER OPENS THE DOOR TO HIS AUNT MAY'S APARTMENT!

NEAT AS A PIN! IT'S ALMOST AS IF AUNT MAY WASN'T REALLY IN THE HOSPITAL!*

AUNT ANNA'S BEEN CHECKING ON THE PLACE, PETER!

*SEE CURRENT ISSUES OF AMAZ. SPIDER-MAN -- J.

YOU'VE BOTH BEEN A FANTASTIC HELP TO AUNT MAY AND ME!

GRAY POWER

YOUR AUNT'S A WONDERFUL WOMAN--

--BUT... PETER, HELPING YOU PICK OUT CLOTHES AND BOOKS FOR HER--

--THAT ISN'T REALLY WHY YOU ASKED ME TO MEET YOU HERE THIS MORNING, IS IT?

N-NO, MARY JANE, IT-- IT ISN'T! I JUST WANTED TO SEE YOU!

TO KNOW IF...

IF I'D CHANGED MY MIND ABOUT NOT MARRYING YOU, TIGER?

L-LIKE I TOLD YOU *LAST NIGHT* WHEN YOU *PROPOSED* TO ME*... I--

*AMAZ. SPIDER-MAN #182 --J.

--I'M NOT SURE I'M *READY* FOR *MARRIAGE!*

I--I *LOVE* YOU, PETER-- THERE'S NO DOUBT IN MY MIND ABOUT *THAT*, BUT...

WELL--

--GIVE A GIRL A *CHANCE*, HUH, TIGER?

SURE, MJ..... I--I DON'T MEAN TO *RUSH* YOU! I GUESS WITH *AUNT MAY* SICK--

--THAT MAYBE I'M *CLINGING* A BIT TOO *HARD* TO THE FEW *OTHER* PEOPLE I LOVE IN MY LIFE!

HEY, PETEY-- DON'T FEEL *BAD* ABOUT CLINGING! I'LL LET YOU *KNOW* IF IT EVER BECOMES A *STRANGLE-HOLD!*

NOW *SHUT UP* AND *HOLD ME*, OKAY?

SOMETIME LATER...

IT WAS NICE OF THE HOSPITAL TO LET US DELIVER HER THINGS TO HER BEFORE *VISITING HOURS!*

AUNT MAY LOOKED *BETTER*... BUT SHE'S STILL *SO WEAK!*

NEWHOPE HOSPITAL

TWO HEART ATTACKS IN A *ROW* IS NO *JOKE*, TIGER!

YEAH-- ESPECIALLY WHEN MY APPEARANCE AS *SPIDER-MAN* MAY BE RESPONSIBLE FOR *ONE* OF THEM!

THIS IS WHERE WE *PART COMPANY*, LOVER!

6 B WAY

I'LL *CALL* YOU LATER, PRETTY LADY!

YOU *DO* THAT, TIGER!

UH-- *OKAY!*

6 B WA

BLAST! SHE'S *UP-SET!* WHY DID I HAVE TO *PRESSURE* HER?

PETER BROODS ABOUT THAT ALL THE WAY UPTOWN--

--TO EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY!

I MEAN, WHAT DO I *WANT* FROM MARRIAGE, ANYWAY? *NORMALCY?*

HEY! THERE'S *HECTOR* AND *HOLLY!* *

HOLLY, UN *MINUTO*, POR FAVOR?

*LAST ISH --JIM.

I DON'T *HAVE* A MINUTE FOR *YOU*, SEÑOR HECTOR AYALA! OR *SHOULD* I SAY... MR. *WHITE TIGER*--

--MISTER *SUPER-HERO* ??

HOLLY, I--I SHOULD HAVE *TOLD* YOU... BUT I DIDN'T THINK IT *MATTERED!*

I THOUGHT YOU'D GET A *KICK* OUT OF HAVING A SUPER-HERO FOR A *BOYFRIEND*--

--AND I THOUGHT YOU'D THINK IT WOULD MAKE OUR *RELATIONSHIP* MORE *EXCITING*?!

MY IDEA OF *EXCITEMENT* IS *NOT* FINDING MY BOY-FRIENDS LAID OUT *COLD* ON A *MORGUE-SLAB* BY A CRAZED *SUPER-VILLAIN!* *

GOODBYE, HECTOR! DON'T BOTHER *CALLING* ME--

--'CAUSE I *WON'T* BE *HOME!*

GET HIS *AUTO-GRAPH*, JIMMY!

HEY! YOU'RE THE *WHITE TIGER*, AREN'T YOU?

WHY DON'T YOU LEAVE ME *ALONE*? *ALL* OF YOU?!

*LAST ISSUE --JIM.

GEE! WHAT A *SPOILSPORT!*

FORGET HIM! YOU GOT *ME*, DOLL!

HI, HECTOR! GOT *PROBLEMS?*

SI, AMIGO!

I'VE JUST LOST A FINE *LADY* AND MY *ANONYMITY* ON THIS CAMPUS BECAUSE LOUSY *LUCK* DECIDED TO MAKE ME A *SUPER-HERO!*

THAT'S A *JOKE*, AMIGO-- BUT *NOT* ONE *YOU'D* UNDER-STAND!

I WISH I COULD TELL *YOU* THE JOKE A *RADIOACTIVE SPIDER* PLAYED ON *ME*-- BUT I CAN'T!

AND I WONDER HOW *MARY JANE* WOULD *REACT* TO IT?

BUT THE BLUES CAN'T LONG SURVIVE A GORGEOUS SPRING DAY ON THE ESU CAMPUS, AND SO...

FLASH! SHA SHAN! HOW'S IT GOING, PEOPLE?

GREAT, PETE--

--JUST GREAT!

SHA SHAN GOT A JOB IN THE PUBLIC LIBRARY...

AND AN APARTMENT AT WHICH FLASH SPENDS MUCH OF HIS TIME!

STUDYING, MR. PARKER! JUST STUDYING!

I'LL BET! LISTEN--I'M LATE FOR CLASS NOW...BUT LET'S GET TOGETHER SOON! OKAY?

IT'S A DATE, PETE! BE SEEING YOU!

AND YOU!

THEN THE FUN STARTS! TRYING TO CATCH UP ON HIS ASTROPHYSICS AND THE CHEMICAL INTER-REACTIONS OF UNSTABLE MOLECULES, PETER PARKER WONDERS HOW MEN LIKE EINSTEIN DID IT!

AND HE COMES TO THE CONCLUSION THAT EINSTEIN DIDN'T SWING AROUND NIGHTS ON THIN STRANDS OF WEBBING!

BUT THAT ISN'T AN EXCUSE HE CAN GIVE TO HIS PROFESSORS--

Behavioral Patterns Kinetic - J. K.

--AND HE WONDERS IF IT'S EVEN ONE HE ACCEPTS HIMSELF?

THUS, BETWEEN DAYDREAMING ABOUT MARY JANE WATSON--

--AND WORRYING ABOUT AUNT MAY IN THE HOSPITAL--

--OUR MR. PARKER PRETTY MUCH MAKES A HASH OF HIS DAY'S CLASSES!

GUESS I'LL HEAD DOWN TO THE DAILY BUGLE... SEE IF I CAN HIT UP JJJ FOR AN ASSIGNMENT!

AND SO WE TAKE OUR LEAVE OF PETER PARKER FOR AWHILE...

...AS WE RETURN TO THE DARK, DAMP DEPTHS OF OUR FAIR CITY... AND TO THE VILLAIN OF OUR PIECE!

THERE! IF I REMEMBER RIGHT--

KSTRASH!

--THIS SHOULD BE THE UNDERGROUND ENTRANCE--

--TO THE LAB OF DR. FARLEY STILLWELL...THE QUACK WHO TOOK JAMESON'S BLOOD MONEY--

--TO TURN ME INTO THE SCORPION!*

STILLWELL DIED TRYIN' TO TAKE BACK MY POWERS--TO RESTORE ME TO NORMAL!

*THE AMAZING AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #20 AGAIN--JIM.

BUT HIS MACHINES ARE STILL INTACT! I KNOW THERE AIN'T NO REVERSIN' WHAT I AM--

--BUT, IF YA GOT IT, FLAUNT IT, THEY SAY!

NO SENSE CRYIN' IN MY BEER! I'M BEYOND CURE! I'LL BE THE SCORPION FOREVER!

SO WHY NOT MAKE THE BEST OF IT?

THE SCORPION POSITIONS HIMSELF BENEATH THE OMINOUS MACHINE... DEPRESSES A BUTTON WITH HIS FOOT--

--AND IS LASHED BY WAVES OF PAIN THE LIKE OF WHICH HE HE HAS NOT FELT SINCE MS. MARVEL TOSSED HIM INTO A VAT OF FROTHING ACID!

YEEAARGHH!

AND THE LIGHT IN THE SCORPI-ON'S EYES GOES FROM MAD--

--TO MADDER--

--TO MADDEST!

THE-- THE PAIN AGAIN! BUT THIS TIME IT'S HEALIN' ME-- MAKIN' ME STRONGER THAN EVER!

NO ONE CAN KEEP JAMESON FROM ME NOW!

NO ONE!!

LATER, IN THE OFFICES OF THE DAILY BUGLE...

THESE PHOTOS OF ROCKET RACER RIDING RINGS AROUND SPIDER-MAN ARE TERRIFIC, ROBINSON! PRINT 'EM!

UH, HI JJJ! GOT ANY WORK FOR ME?

HRUMPHH! I MIGHT HAVE, PARKER-- IF YOU WEREN'T LOSING YOUR TOUCH! I'D HAVE EXPECTED YOU TO BRING ME THESE PICTURES!

I MIGHT HAVE-- IF I HADN'T BEEN POSING FOR YOUR PHOTOGRAPHER AS SPIDER-MAN!

JONAH, HIS AUNT IS STILL IN THE HOSPITAL...

SORRY, ROBBIE! I'M A PUBLISHER-- NOT MISS LONELY-HEARTS! EH...?

HUH? A PIECE OF PAVE-MENT--

CRASH!

--FLYING THROUGH THE WINDOW!

AND, ON THE STREET BELOW...

JAMESON... I'VE COME FOR YOU!

DAI

IT'S THE SCORPION, JONAH!

GREAT HEAVENS! WHAT CAN HE WANT WITH ME--

--THIS TIME?

ER-- I JUST REMEMBERED A BUSINESS APPOINT-MENT... OUT OF TOWN!

HANDLE THIS FOR ME, ROBBIE! PARKER... TAKE PICTURES!

I'LL BE BA... GAAHHH!

WHAT WILL WE DO, MR. JAMESON?

THE STAFF'S IN A PANIC, JJJ! THEY'RE LOOKING TO YOU FOR LEADERSHIP!

THAT MADMAN WILL DESTROY THE ENTIRE BUILDING TO GET JONAH!

HE MUST'VE CUT THE PHONE LINES! I CAN'T GET THROUGH TO THE POLICE!

IF ONLY MS. MARVEL WERE HERE! SHE BEAT THE SCORPION LAST TIME!

I WISH MS. MARVEL WAS HERE, TOO! THIS IS ONE FIGHT I DON'T NEED!

I SHOULD LET THE SCORPION HAVE JONAH -- THE WAY JJJ MEANT HIM TO HAVE ME!

--BUT, *FACE IT*, PARKER... YOU ALWAYS WERE A *SUCKER* FOR THE *GOLDEN RULE!*

DO UNTO *OTHERS* AS YOU'D LIKE *THEM* TO DO UNTO *YOU*--

--AND TRY NOT TO GET *KILLED* WHEN *THEY* DO IT *FIRST!*

SO ONCE AGAIN I PLACE MY *HEAD* ON THE *CHOPPING-BLOCK* FOR A PUBLISHER WHO HATES *THAT* AND EVERY *OTHER* PART OF MY ANATOMY!

WHY DO I DO IT, YOU ASK?

I GUESS BASICALLY BECAUSE I'M JUST A *SOFT TOUCH!*

GOT TO SPIN A *WEB-NET* BEFORE...

THWIT!

THWIT??

EMPTY! MY WEB-SHOOTERS ARE *EMPTY?* *BOTH* OF THEM?!

UH-OH! SCORPY'S GETTING READY TO HEAVE A *CADDY* THROUGH JONAH'S *PICTURE WINDOW!*

AND MY *SPARE CARTRIDGES* ARE *GONE!* I--I MUST HAVE *DROPPED* THEM SOME-WHERE--

"--AND THE SCORPION'S NOT GOING TO *WAIT* WHILE I RUSH *HOME* TO *RELOAD*!!

M11 3110

CHEW ON THIS, JAMESON!

CRIPES! HERE IT COMES!

AND THE *ONLY* THING BETWEEN *JONAH* AND EIGHT-CYLINDERS WORTH OF *DESTRUCTION*--

--IS *ME*!!

WHRUMP!

JONAH, IT'S *SPIDER-MAN*... HE'S *SAVED* YOU!

W-WHAT--?!

MAYBE I COULD EARN *EXTRA MONEY* TEACHING A *COURSE* IN THE CATCHING OF *CADILLACS* AT THE NEW SCHOOL?

THIS--THIS IS AN *OUT-RAGE!* HOW *DARE* THAT WALL-CRAWLER *EMBARRASS* ME BEFORE MY ENTIRE *STAFF*?

HOW *DARE* HE??!

THE *IMPORTANT* THING IS THAT HE *SAVED* AN OFFICE FULL OF *LIVES*-- *YOURS* INCLUDED, JONAH! BUT--

--*LORD!* THE *WEIGHT* OF THE CAR IS *PULLING* SPIDER-MAN FROM THE *LEDGE!*

ROBBIE'S *RIGHT!* I'M LOSING MY *BALANCE!* CAN'T *HANG ON...!*

BUT AT LEAST I CAN *GUIDE* THE CAR AWAY FROM THE *CROWD* BELOW--

--AND *TOWARDS* THE *SCORPION!*

KRUMP!

IT'S SO *NICE* TO SEE YOU AGAIN, SCORPY--

--THAT I'VE DECIDED TO PUT MY *BEST FOOT FORWARD!*

SPIDER-*AARGH!*

NO, SPIDER-*MAN*... BUT I GOT YOUR *MEANING!*

I DON'T KNOW WHAT *BROUGHT* YOU HERE, WALL-CRAWLER--

SWOK!

--BUT THEY'RE GOING TO NEED A *HEARSE* TO CARRY YOU *AWAY!*

UNGHH! HE'S *FASTER* THAN THE LAST TIME WE FOUGHT... *STRONGER*--

--AND I'M SO *EXHAUSTED* I COULD LIE DOWN AND *DOZE OFF* RIGHT HERE--

--EXCEPT THAT THE SCORPION WOULD *SEE* TO IT THAT I NEVER *GOT UP* AGAIN!

SWOOSH!

MY *BEST BET* IS TO TAKE THE *OFFENSIVE*--

--AND *STAY* ON IT!

THOUGH IT SEEMS MY *CHEERING SECTION* DISAGREES!

TCHRAM!

COME ON, SCORPION! *BEAT* THAT WALL-CRAWLING *PEST!*

AND IF HE BEATS *SPIDER-MAN* ...HE'LL KILL *YOU!*

HUH? THAT'S *RIGHT!* COME ON, *WEBHEAD!* SOCK IT *TO* HIM!

THUS, HOWEVER *IN-SINCERE*, JONAH'S *JEERS* BECOME *CHEERS*--

--BUT JUST A *MITE TOO LATE!*

YOU DON'T STAND A *CHANCE* AGAINST ME, WEB-SLINGER--

--'CAUSE YOU'RE FIGHTIN' A GUY WHO AIN'T GOT *NUTHIN'* TO LOSE!

BEIN' A *MONSTER'S* GOT ITS *ADVANTAGES*, WEBHEAD! WHEN *JAMESON* TOOK AWAY MY *HUMANITY*--

--HE ALSO TOOK ANY FEELIN'S OF *MERCY* OR *REMORSE* THAT MIGHTA GOT IN MY *WAY*--

--WHEN *SMASHIN'* YOU... OR ANYONE *ELSE*! YOU'RE FACIN' A *MONSTER* NOW! A *FREAK*!

'AN WHAT DOES A *MONSTER* CARE FOR *CONSEQUENCES*??

SPIDER-MAN- MOVE *ASIDE*! LET US...!

NO! AFTER THE *BEATING* I JUST TOOK--

--THE SCORPI- ON'S *MINE*!!

AND YOU KNOW *WHY*, SCORPS? BECAUSE YOU MADE *ME* A *SCAPEGOAT*--

WHAP!

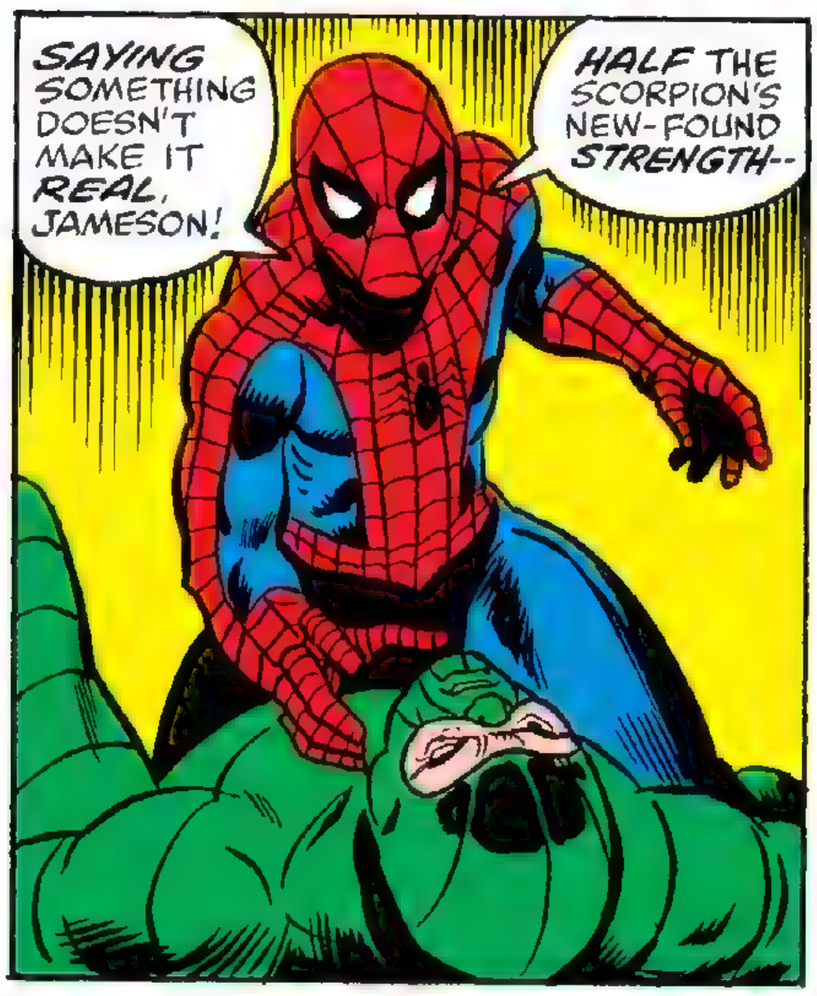
--FOR YOUR *NEUROSES*!

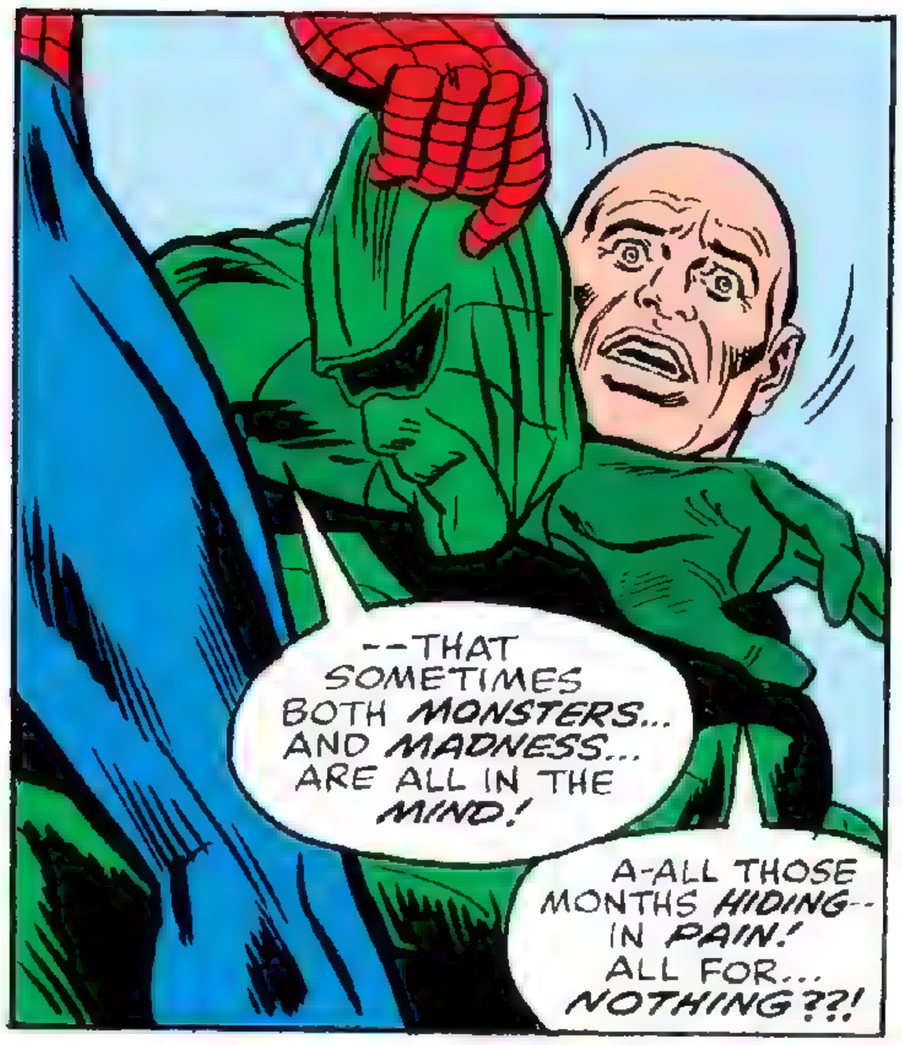
SWOK!

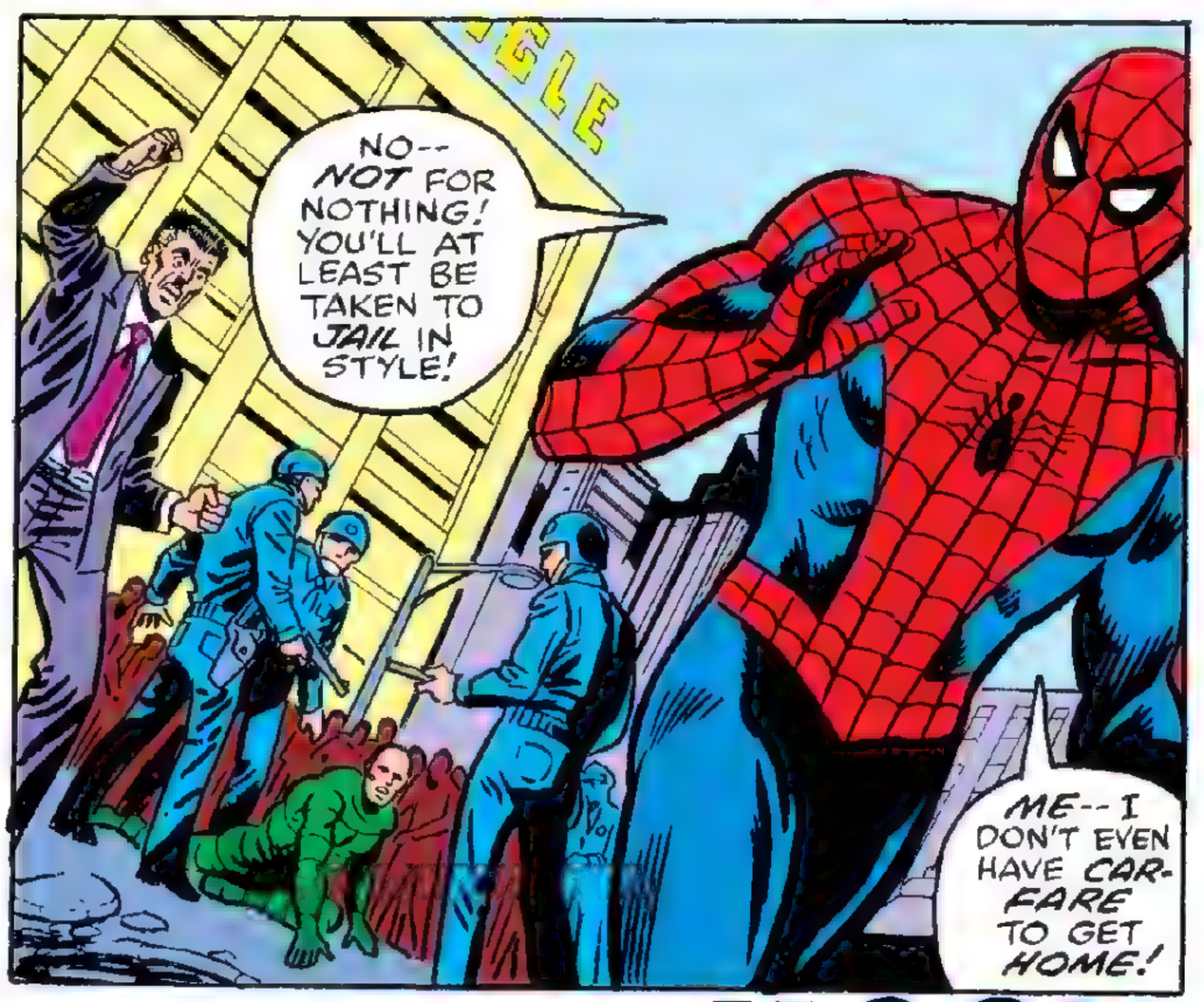
I *RESENT* THAT, MISTER!

I DON'T NEED *YOUR* PROBLEMS!

TRAM!







NEXT ISH: BY THE LIGHT OF THE SILVERY MOON KNIGHT

THE SPECTACULAR SPIDERMAN ®

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COCKRUM/RUBINSTEIN

ENTER: MOON KNIGHT!

While attending a demonstration in radiology, student PETER PARKER was bitten by a spider which had accidentally been exposed to RADIOACTIVE RAYS. Through a miracle of science, Peter soon found that he had GAINED the arachnid's powers...and had, in effect, become a human spider...

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BY THE LIGHT OF THE SILVERY MOON KNIGHT!

MOST GANGLAND SLAYINGS TAKE PLACE IN DARK, OUT-OF-THE-WAY PLACES!

EXIT

SEC. 13

N-NO, PLEASE! DON'T KILL ME!

SI.G

AND THIS ONE--IN THE MUNICIPAL GARAGE BENEATH THE MANHATTAN DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE--IS NO EXCEPTION!

EXCEPT THAT, UNLIKE MOST, THIS ONE IS BEING WATCHED!

JIM SHOOTER, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
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BUT WHETHER THE **OBSERVER** CAN DO ANYTHING TO **SAVE** THE GANG'S **VICTIM** REMAINS TO BE SEEN!

P-PLEASE, I--I DON'T WANT TO **DIE**!

YOU SHOULDA THOUGHT OF THAT **BEFORE** YOU TALKED TO THE D.A.'S COMMISSION ON **ORGANIZED CRIME**, LINDY!

THE **MAGGIA** DON'T LIKE **STOOLIES**-- STOOLIE!

LINDY CRINGES! **PLEADING** IS USELESS--

--BUT IT'S **ALL** HE KNOWS HOW TO **DO**!

AFTER ALL, IT WAS **PLEA-BARGAINING** WITH DISTRICT ATTORNEY **BLAKE TOWER** THAT GOT LINDY **INTO** THIS--

SCHUNK!

H-HUH--?!

--BUT IT'LL TAKE A HELL OF A LOT **MORE** TO GET HIM **OUT**!

WHAT THE--? WHAT **WAS** THAT?!

A SILVER **CRESCENT MOON**?!

GEEZ! AIN'T THAT THE **CALLIN' CARD** O' THAT GUY--

--MOON KNIGHT?

YES, AS A MATTER OF FACT--

--IT IS!!

SHRUD!

SORRY IT TOOK ME SO LONG TO GET HERE, LINDY, BUT, YOU SEE --

BRATTA-TA-TA-TA!

-- MY INFORMANT IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT DIDN'T TELL ME YOU WERE GOING TO BE BUMPED OFF TILL AN HOUR AGO!

NEXT TIME YOU'RE PROMISED IMMUNITY IN EXCHANGE FOR YOUR TESTIMONY--

--REMEMBER THAT THE MAGGIA HAS ITS SPIES ON THE POLICE PAYROLL, TOO!

HE AIN'T GONNA *LIVE* LONG ENOUGH TO REMEMBER *ANYTHING*, MOON KNIGHT!

SEC B

YAARGHHH!

BRIIRIIPP!

NO!!

ONLY IF YOU *HIT ME*, GUNSEL--

OH, *YEAH*, MISTER MOON KNIGHT! AN' GUESS *WHAT?* YOU'RE *NEXT!*

--AND TAKE MY *WORD* FOR IT--

BRATTA-TA-TAT!

TROOM!

--YOU WON'T!!

BETTER TELL YOUR MAGGIA *MOUTHPIECE* NOT TO WASTE HIS TIME BAILING YOU OUT OF *STIR*, KILLER--

--BECAUSE, IF THE *LAW* DOESN'T PUT YOU *AWAY* ...PERMANENTLY... THE MOON KNIGHT *WILL!*

LINDY?

THEY'RE... *ON* TO YOU, MOON KNIGHT! GOT YOU PEGGED...

PEGGED AS *WHAT?*

...*CABBIE!* HACK-DRIVER! *UNGHHH!*

DEAD! AND I'M NO CLOSER TO A *LEAD* ON THE REVITALIZED *MAGGIA* THAN I WAS BEFORE!

WHILE *THEY* MAY BE *VERY* CLOSE TO FINDING OUT MY *REAL* IDENTITY!

I WASN'T MUCH BETTER THAN THE *POLICE* WHEN IT CAME TO *PROTECTING* YOU, WAS I, LINDY?

WELL, NO USE CRYING OVER *SPILT MILK!* BETTER CALL *FRENCHIE*--

--AND WING IT *OUT* OF HERE BEFORE THE BOYS IN *BLUE* ARRIVE!

SCORE TONIGHT: MAGGIA--*ONE*, JUSTICE-- *ZERO!*

CLIMBING A *ROPE LADDER* TO THE *STARS*, MOON KNIGHT VANISHES INTO THE EVENING SKY!

THE **SAME** SKY THAT, UPTOWN, HIDES **ANOTHER** ON HIS TIRED WAY...

HOME! THOUGHT I'D **NEVER** MAKE IT!

WHAT A **DAY!** FIRST I HAD TO GO ALL THE WAY TO **JERSEY** WITH **IRON MAN,** ON THE TRAIL OF **WHIPLASH**--*

-- THEN **HE** TURNED OUT TO BE JUST **ONE** SURPRISE THE **MAGGIA** HAD IN STORE FOR US!

*SEE MARVEL TEAM-UP #72 -- BOB.

I BARELY HAD TIME TO VISIT **AUNT MAY** AT THE HOSPITAL WHEN I GOT BACK!

GOOD THING IT WAS A LONG **WEEKEND!** NOW I CAN GET SOME **SLEEP** BEFORE **CLASSES** TOMORROW!

BUT I'D BETTER GRAB A QUICK **SHOWER** FIRST!

WHAT MY **RIGHT ARM** IS TELLING MY **LEFT ARM** IS DOWNRIGHT **EMBARASSING!**

TOO BAD THERE'S NO ROOM IN MY **BELT** COMPARTMENTS FOR **ANTI-PERSPIRANT!**

HEY! THAT **REPLASTERING** JOB I DID ON THE CEILING IS STILL **UP!** *

I **TOLD** MRS. MUGGINS THAT I HAD **HIDDEN** TALENTS!

* AFTER THE ROOF **FELL** IN **PPTSS** #20 -- ROLLICKING ROBERT.

AND SOON...

SPLISH SPLASH, I WAS TAKING A BATH...

WOW! I NEVER THOUGHT **HOT WATER** COULD FEEL SO **GOOD!**

BUT, ALAS FOR OUR POOR MR. PARKER, IT'S A FEELING THAT JUST CAN'T LAST...

BRZZZ!

WHO-- WHO'S THERE?!

PETER? IT'S ME... BETTY!

BETTY WHO?

WHY, BETTY BRANT!* HOW MANY OTHER BETTYS DO YOU KNOW?

*RECENTLY RETURNED IN AMAZ. SPIDER-MAN #182-- B.

UH--JUST KIDDING, BETTY! COME ON IN! I'LL BE OUT IN A MINUTE!

:SIGH:

HMMM!

I FORGOT THAT I WAS GOING TO A MOVIE WITH BETTY TONIGHT!

I LIKE BETTY--BUT WE'VE BEEN LIKE TWO LOST SOULS CLINGING TO EACH OTHER SINCE SHE LEFT NED--

--AND MARY JANE TURNED DOWN MY MARRIAGE PROPOSAL!

CAN'T LET HER SEE MY SPIDEY COSTUME DRYING OUT...

SLAM

OH, NO!

WHUMPH!

PETER-- WAS THAT A CRASH?

NO--ER-- IT WAS JUST A LITTLE HOME REPAIR JOB I DID MYSELF! NOTHING, REALLY!

I--I SEE WHAT YOU MEAN!

AND, A SHORT WHILE LATER...

I HEARD THAT CRASH, PARKER! I AIN'T DEAF... THOUGH SOMETIMES I WISH I WAS! YOU COLLEGE KIDS...!

UH, BETTY-- MEET MRS. MUGGINS, MY LANDLADY!

I'LL GET THE PLASTER AND DO THE JOB OVER TOMORROW, MRS. MUGGINS!

:HRMMPH: THIS GRIEF I NEED IN MY LIFE?!

WHAT FLICK WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE, BETTY?

OH, I'LL LEAVE THAT UP TO YOU, PETER!

OKAY! HOW ABOUT STAR WARS?

OH--EH--NED AND I SAW THAT IN PARIS!

HOW 'BOUT CLOSE ENCOUNTERS, THEN?

WE SAW THAT, TOO!

UH--COMA?

WE...

...SAW THAT ONE IN PARIS, TOO, HUH? LISTEN--THERE'S A CHAPLIN FESTIVAL AT THE FINE ARTS...!

AND SO...

WHERE TO, FOLKS?

UH, EIGHTH STREET, DRIVER!

GEE! BETTY'S THE FIRST GIRL I EVER LOVED ...BUT WHEN I'M WITH HER, ALL I CAN THINK OF IS MARY JANE!

I WONDER WHAT NED IS DOING NOW...

EIGHTH STREET IT IS!

AND, AS PETER AND BETTY SPEND AN EVENING ALMOST AS **SILENT** AS THE **MOVIE** THEY'RE WATCHING, WHY DON'T **WE** CHECK IN ON THE **OTHER** REGULARS IN THIS MAG?

ANOTHER **SANDWICH**, FLASH, MY LOVE?

HUH? SANDWICH? **SURE**, SHA SHAN--

WAR AND PEACE

PSYCHOLOGY TODAY DR. NORMAN BATES

CHEMISTRY I LAB BOOK H HYDE

--IF A **KISS** COMES WITH IT, THAT IS!

FLASH THOMPSON-- **STOP THAT!** YOU SAID YOU WERE COMING TO **MY** APARTMENT BE-CAUSE IT WAS **QUIETER** THAN THE **DORMS!**

BUT **NOW**, I SEE THAT YOU WISHED FOR A REASON NOT TO **STUDY!**

HEY! FROM WHERE **I** SIT THAT'S NOT SUCH A **BAD** IDEA!

LET US IGNORE THE **REPLY** SHA SHAN MAKES TO HER **BELOVED**--

--AND CUT QUICKLY ACROSS THE EAST RIVER TO THE **SOUTH BRONX**, WHERE...

¡CARAJO! BECAUSE OF THE **WHITE TIGER** I HAVE LOST A **GIRL**--

--WHO LIKED ME AS **HECTOR AYALA**... NOT AS SOME KIND OF SUPER-HERO!

HOLLY GILLIS WON'T EVEN **LOOK** AT ME NOW!

ANY **WHY**, EH? ¿**POR QUÉ**? I DIDN'T ASK FOR THIS '**GIFT**'!

I DIDN'T **ASK** TO BE THE **WHITE TIGER!**

TAKE IT BACK, YOU HEAR ME? **TAKE IT BACK!!**

AND VERY MUCH LATER...

PHEW! I THOUGHT 'THE GREAT DICTATOR' WOULD NEVER END!

I TOOK BETTY HOME-- BUT I COULDN'T GET TO SLEEP!

MAYBE SOME NICE 'N' EASY WEB-SLINGING WILL CLEAR MY HEAD!

FRENCHIE, THIS IS JAKE! I'M AT THE DINER NOW!

TAXI

OUI, MARC--I MEAN, JAKE! BUT BE CAREFUL!

ZEE MAGGIA HAS OBVIOUSLY RETRIEVED MUCH OF CONQUER LORD'S FILES!*

HE KNEW OF YOUR MULTIPLE SECRET IDENTITIES... AND FROM WHAT LINDY SAID--

--ZEE MAGGIA MUST SUSPECT ZAT JAKE LOCKLEY IS ALSO ZEE MYSTERIOUS MOON KNIGHT!

* SEE MARVEL PREMIERE #'S 28-29--B.

...AND CHANCES ARE THEY'LL BE WAITING FOR ME, EH, FRENCHIE?

THER PLACE

THE OTHI

WELL, I WON'T MAKE THEM WAIT LONG!

IF I'M EVER GOING TO GET A LEAD TO THE IDENTITY OF THE NEW BIG M--

--I'M NOT GONNA DO IT BY COOLIN' MY HEELS--

EAT

--WHILE *INNOCENT* PEOPLE TAKE THE *RAP* FOR UNWITTINGLY ASSOCIATING WITH *MOON KNIGHT!*

HEY! MY *SPIDER-SENSE* JUST WENT OFF!

THEY'VE GOT *GENA* AND *CRAWLEY* UNDER GUARD!

THIS IS YOUR LAST *CHANCE*, LADY! WHEN'S *LOCKLEY* USUALLY COME IN?

LOCKLEY'S *HERE*, CRUD!

JAKE-- *LOOK OUT!*

YEAH, JAKE-- *WATCH IT!*

WHRAP!

CHUD!

SPIDER-MAN!!

YOU WERE EXPECTING MAYBE *IMUS* IN THE *MORNING?*

STAB

THWIP!

NO! CHANCES ARE YOU WEREN'T EXPECTING *ANYBODY*--

--INCLUDING THESE *PISTOLEROS* WHO'VE MUSCLED IN ON YOUR *SUPPER SPECIAL!*

SPLANG!

CHOPS AN' PEAS AN' GUNSELS *FRIED*, MR. HERO-MAN!

SOUNDS REAL *GOOD* TO ME, LADY!

BLAST! I WANTED THEM TO *TAKE* ME... TO LEAD ME TO *BIG M!* SPIDER-MAN'S *BLOWN* THAT!

SPRAK!

OH, MY!

BUT MAYBE *NOT!*

ONE OF THE THUGS IS TAKING IT ON THE *LAM!*

LACE

MAYBE JAKE LOCKLEY CAN'T *SCARE* HIM INTO *BETRAYING* THE MAGGIA--

--BUT *MOON KNIGHT* CAN!!

W-WHAT? *SOMETHIN' TRIPPIN'* ME UP?!

SKLAK!

BLASTED *RIGHT!* IT'S CALLED A *TRUNCHEON*, GUNSEL--

--AND I'M GONNA USE IT TO BEAT A *DRUM ROLL* ON YOUR *HEAD* IF YOU DON'T *TALK*--

--AND TALK *FAST!!*

A-HEM! I DON'T KNOW *WHO* YOU ARE, OR WHERE YOU *CAME* FROM, CHUCKLES--

--BUT I HEARD THE WORD *MAGGIA* DROPPED IN THAT DINER... AND I'M NOT LETTING YOU *KILL* THIS HOOD TO KEEP ME FROM GETTING THE *INFORMATION* I WANT!

KILL--? WAIT A MINUTE, WALL-CRAWLER!

YOU WAIT, WHITE-EYES!

THIP!

WE CAN DISCUSS IT AFTER YOU'RE WEBBED TO THAT WALL!

WRONG, SPIDER-MAN!

WE DISCUSS IT NOW... ON MY TERMS!

SKRIT!

NOW IT'S YOUR TURN TO GET PINNED TO THE--

--WALL...?!

PLINK!

YOU WERE SAYING?

GREAT! WHILE THOSE TWO JERKS FIGHT EACH OTHER--

--I CAN ALERT **BIG M** THAT HIS CHANCE HAS COME TO ELIMINATE BOTH **SPIDER-MAN** AN' THE **MOON KNIGHT!**

PHONE

OPERATOR? YEAH-- I WANNA PLACE A **CALL** TO THE NUMBER I DIALED--

--AN' **REVERSE** THE **CHARGES!**

PHO

THE **CONNECTION** MADE, THE HOOD RATTLES OFF HIS **STORY**--

--BUT...

GOOD! BUT DON'T **HANG UP** WHEN YOU'RE **DONE,** SLUG--

SNIKT!

PH

--'CAUSE THERE'S SOME THINGS **I'D** LIKE TO SAY TO **BIG M!**

YOU DON'T EVER **GIVE UP,** DO YOU, SPARKLES?

WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO **LEARN** THAT WHEN I **SAY** NO KILLING--

--I **MEAN** NO KILLING?!

I'LL **TELL** YOU WHEN, WEB-SLINGER--

--NOT WHILE I LIVE!!

CRIPES! WHEN AM I GONNA LEARN TO PUNCH BEFORE I ASK QUESTIONS?

SPARKLES IS GETTING READY TO... HEY! WHAT'S THIS WIND THAT'S SUDDENLY SPRUNG UP?!

YOU WANTED TO TALK TO A MAGGIA HIGHER-UP, MOON KNIGHT?

WELL-- NOW YOU'RE GONNA GET YOUR CHANCE!

WHAT ARE YOU MOUTHING OFF ABOUT, GUNSEL?

MOON KNIGHT? I'M FIGHTING MOON KNIGHT?! BUT ISN'T HE A GOOD GUY?!?

UNHH! SUDDEN WIND WHIPPING THROUGH THE ALLEY-WAY--TEARING ME AWAY FROM SPIDER-MAN!

WIND MY EYE! THIS FEELS MORE LIKE A...

CYCLONE!

CERTAINMENT, MES AMI! ZEE MAGGIA IS TRULY INTERNATIONAL IN SCOPE!

SO WHY SHOULD ZEE GREATEST VILLAIN ON ZEE CONTINENT NOT BE IMPORTED AS A MEMBAIR?!

I DON'T KNOW-- BUT I'VE GOT A NASTY HUNCH I'M GONNA FIND OUT!

NEXT GUESS WHO'S BURIED IN GRANT'S TOMB?

THE SPECTACULAR SPIDERMAN ®

35¢ CC | 23 OCT 02199

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PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN®

MARVEL'S TV SENSATION SIDE-BY-SIDE WITH THE MYSTERIOUS MOON KNIGHT!

CYCLONE STRIKES!

While attending a demonstration in radiology, student PETER PARKER was bitten by a spider which had accidentally been exposed to RADIOACTIVE RAYS. Through a miracle of science, Peter soon found that he had GAINED the arachnid's powers...and had, in effect, become a human spider...

STAN LEE PRESENTS: THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN!

BILL MANTLO, WRITER · JIM MOONEY, PENCILER · MIKE ESPOSITO, INKER · JOE ROSEN, LETTERER · PHIL RACHE, COLORIST · BOB HALL, EDITOR · JIM SHOOTER, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

GUESS WHO'S BURIED IN GRANT'S TOMB!

THE MAGGIA'S SENT *CYCLONE* AFTER *MOON KNIGHT* AND ME--

--AND HE'S *BLOWING US AWAY!!*

*AND, IF THAT DOESN'T PUT YOU ON THE EDGE OF YOUR SEAT, TRUE BELIEVER, THEN **NOTHING** WILL!*

C936

B-BLAST! THAT *MAGGIA ASSASSIN* I WAS TRYING TO *STOP* WHEN SPIDER-MAN TACKLED ME*MUST'VE ALERTED *BIG M!*

HE'S BROUGHT UP THE *BIG GUNS*-- AND I CAN'T STAY ON MY *FEET* LONG ENOUGH TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT!

*LAST ISH--BOB.

ZEES WILL PAY YOU FOR ZEE *DEFEAT* I SUFFERED AT YOUR HANDS IN *PARIS*, MON ENEMI, *SPIDER-MAN!**

CRIPES! IN ONE NIGHT I GO FROM A *DOWNER* DATE WITH *BETTY GRANT*--

--TO FIGHTING *MOON KNIGHT*--

--TO *THIS!*

WOULD SOMEONE PLEASE TELL ME *HOW?!*

*THE BATTLE IS **WATCHED** BY A PINIONED **MAGGIA** ASSASSIN WHOSE NIGHT BEGAN WHEN HE TRIED TO **SLAY** CAB DRIVER JAKE LOCKLEY!*

*HE HADN'T KNOWN THEN (AND **STILL** DOESN'T) THAT LOCKLEY WAS JUST **ONE** OF MOON KNIGHT'S **MANY** IDENTITIES!*

*BUT THE HIT MAN DIDN'T ASK **QUESTIONS**, EITHER! LIKE **ALL** WHO SERVE THE MAGGIA... HE JUST SHUT UP AND DID HIS **JOB!***

LIKE CYCLONE IS DOING NOW!

M-MANAGED TO GRIP THE *WALL!* I'M ANCHORED-- BUT FOR HOW *LONG?!*

*JUST THEN MOON KNIGHT CHOOSES TO GO ON THE **OFFENSIVE**...*

I'M *COMING* FOR YOU, KILLER!

EH? YOU TRY TO *RIDE* MY HURRICANE *WINDS?!*

SEE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #S 143 & 144 -- BOB.

WH- WHAT'S HE *DOING* TO ME...?!

A FOOLISH AND *FUTILE* ATTEMPT, M'SIEU!

FOR I SEE THAT YOU DO NOT *FLY* SO MUCH AS *GLIDE* UPON ZEE AIR CURRENTS!

UNFORTU- NATELY FOR *YOU*, ZEE AIR CURRENTS IN ZIS CASE ARE GOING IN ONLY *ONE* DIRECTION--

MOON KNIGHT'S BEEN BLOWN OUT OF SIGHT! IT'S JUST *ME* AND *CYCLONE* NOW!

--UP!!

BUT I TOOK THE *WIND* OUT OF THIS GALLIC BLOWHARD'S *SAILS* ONCE BEFORE! I SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO IT--

--AGAIN...!

CRASH!

ON THE OTHER HAND--!

UNNGH

ZIS IS ZEE *BEGINNING* OF ZEE *END* FOR YOU, MON AMI!

I SERVED A YEAR IN *PRISON* AFTER YOU THWARTED MY PLAN TO *BLACKMAIL* ZAT KIDNAPPED PUBLISHER--*J. JONAH JAMESON!**

* IN THE AFOREMENTIONED *AMAZING SPIDER-MAN* #'S 143 & 144 -- BOB.

BUT I WAS -- HOW DO YOU SAY? -- *SPRUNG* BY ZEE *MAGGIA*... MY *CYCLONE INVENTION* -- MY *POWER* -- RETURNED TO ME ZAT I MIGHT DO Z'EIR BIDDING!

AND FOR ZEE *HUMILIATION* YOU MADE ME SUFFER, IT IS *MY* WILL -- AND ZEE *MAGGIA'S* --

GRN

--ZAT YOU *DIE*, WALL-CRAWLER!!

H-HOLY C-CROW, I--

--I THINK HE--

--MEANS IIIITT...

SILENCE, IN THIS CASE, IS THE BITTER SOUND OF... DEFEAT!

AND...

HE--HE'S GONE! YOU DID BLOW HIM AWAY!

YOU! YOU ARE ZEE ONE WHO PHONED BIG M?

YEAH--I TOOK THE CHANCE, KNOWIN' HE'D SEND YOU TO POLISH OFF SPIDER-MAN AN' MOON KNIGHT!

AND EEF I HAD NOT? ZEE NUMBER, IT COULD 'AVE BEEN TRACED, NO?

ZEE MAGGIA DID NOT PAY YOU TO TAKE CHANCES, MON AMI-- ONLY TO OBEY!

AND ZEE FIRST RULE OF DISCIPLINE IS ZAT BIG M IS NEVER TO BE CONTACTED BY PHONE!

PENNZOIL 30 SNZ

W-WAIT! WH-WHAT ARE YOU--?

ZEE VERY FACT ZAT YOU SOMEHOW FOUND OUT ZEE NUMBAIR EEZ ENOUGH TO SEAL YOUR FATE!

DOING, M'SIEU? I AM INCREASING ZEE VELOCITY OF MY SPIN-- DRAWING ZEE AIR AWAY FROM YOUR IMMEDIATE VICINITY-- SUCKING ZEE OXYGEN FROM YOUR VERY LUNGS!

IN SHORT, MON ENFANT-- I AM KILLING YOU!

THE ASSASSIN'S SCREAM IS LOST IN THE BANSHEE WAIL OF THE WHIRLING WINDS--

--AND THEN THE FORMER MAGGIA HIT MAN IS LOST AS WELL!

HIS KILLER DEPARTS, UNTROUBLED BY CONSCIENCE--

--UNCHALLENGED, UNMOLESTED--

--AND UNOBSERVED!

NYCSD

WELL...

SKRAPE!

...ALMOST UNOBSERVED!

WHEW! THERE BUT FOR FORTUNE WOULD'VE GONE I... IF I HADN'T SPOTTED THIS MANHOLE--

--AND DROPPED INTO IT UNDER COVER OF CYCLONE'S VORTEX!

COULDN'T DO ANYTHING TO HELP THAT POOR GUY, THOUGH!

I CAN'T IMAGINE WHY YOU WOULD'VE WANTED TO!

MOON KNIGHT?! SO YOU MADE IT THROUGH, TOO?

SURE! HE MAY HAVE BLOWN ME UP INTO THE SKY...

BUT WHAT GOES UP HAS TO COME DOWN, HUH?

YOU CATCH ON FAST, WEB-SPINNER-- ALMOST FAST ENOUGH TO MAKE ME CONSIDER WORKING WITH YOU ON THIS CASE!

THAT IS, IF YOU'RE DONE FIGHTING ME?!

BELVE HOT L

WE ARE ON THE SAME SIDE, YOU KNOW!

THEN YOU *WEREN'T* TRYING TO *KILL* THIS BIRD TO KEEP HIM FROM *TALKING* TO ME?

I *WANTED* HIM TO TALK!

BUT EVEN *DEAD* HE MAY PROVIDE US WITH A *CLUE* TO THE MAGGIA'S WHEREABOUTS! LOOK IN HIS COAT POCKET!

NEW YORK CITY

GUIDE BOO

IT'S A NEW YORK CITY *TOUR GUIDE!*

RIGHT! I *SAW* IT WHEN I PINNED HIM TO THE PHONEBOOTH! BRING IT *WITH* YOU--

--WHEN YOU BOARD MY *'COPTER!*

THIP!

ALL RIGHT-- BUT THIS DOESN'T MEAN I *TRUST* YOU!

NOW LET'S SHIFT OUR FOCUS TO A HOMEY KITCHEN IN A SOUTH BRONX TENEMENT...

WHAT'S THE MATTER, LITTLE BROTHER? YOU HAVEN'T TOUCHED YOUR *DINNER!*

EL DIARIO DE CGLOS

AWILDA, YOU HAVE A *BIG* PROBLEM-- YOUR *MOUTH!*

¡ÓYE! THAT'S NO WAY TO TALK TO YOUR LOVING *SISTER,* HECTOR--

--*IS* IT, PAPA?

PAPA?

UMM!

EL DIARIO SEGU

CAN'T YOU LEAVE ME *ALONE*-- YOU, ABOVE ALL, WHO *KNOWS* WHAT'S *WRONG* WITH ME?!

HECTOR, I-- I DIDN'T *MEAN*--.

NO! YOU *NEVER* MEAN IT-- BUT YOU KEEP *RIDING* ME ALL THE SAME!

SLAM!

HECTOR!

UM?

DE DIARIO DEL DEC

AND, WHEN HECTOR AYALA IS ALONE IN HIS BEDROOM...

AWILDA *TEASES* ME--

--HOPING TO MAKE ME *FORGET* THAT I AM *CURSED* WITH BEING THE *WHITE TIGER!*

HOW CAN I *CHANGE* THIS ROTTEN WORLD--

--WHEN I CAN'T EVEN HOLD ONTO THE *GIRL* I...LOVE?!

AND WHAT OF THE GIRL IN QUESTION?

HOLLY GILLIS-- YOU PICK UP THAT PHONE, AND YOU'LL HATE YOURSELF!

I HATE MYSELF NOW, AMY--

--FOR TOYING WITH HECTOR--MAKING HIM FALL FOR ME--*

SEE PETER PARKER'S 19 & 20 --808.

--AND THEN NOT STANDING BY HIM WHEN HE NEEDED MY HELP!

AT THE SAME MOMENT, ACROSS THE RIVER IN MANHATTAN...

HMMM! STILL NO ANSWER!

WHO'VE YOU BEEN TRYING TO CALL, MARY JANE?

OH--EH-- JUST A FRIEND, MARTY--

-- BY THE NAME OF PETER PARKER!

WELL, HE CAN'T SAY I DIDN'T TRY! C'MON--LET'S DISCO!

WITH YOU ALL THE WAY, MJ!

LORD-- WHAT A SQUARE!

AND YET ANOTHER TRIES TO MAKE USE OF MA BELL'S SERVICES THIS NIGHT...

WHAT, OPERATOR? STILL NO ANSWER FROM PARIS? I--NO, DON'T TRY AGAIN...

OH, NED-- WHERE ARE YOU?

AND WHAT AM I DOING HERE WITH-OUT YOU?

I THOUGHT I COULD FORGET YOU-- REKINDLE THE OLD LOVE BETWEEN PETER AND ME... BUT IT'S ALL WRONG!

THUS BETTY BRANT LEEDS CRIES HERSELF TO SLEEP--

--WHILE A CERTAIN HELICOPTER HOVERS NOISELESSLY--

--ABOVE A FOG-ENSHROUDED MANSION!

HERE WE ARE, MOON KNIGHT!

WHERE IS HERE?

MY HOME BASE! YOU COMING?

YOU WANT ME TO JUMP OUT OF A HELICOPTER-- INTO A FOG--WITHOUT KNOWING HOW HIGH UP WE ARE?

YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDING!

SUIT YOURSELF! THE FOG'S ARTIFICIAL-- THERE ARE SOME SECRETS I'D LIKE TO KEEP!

FRENCHIE-- MY PILOT-- WILL SET YOU DOWN AND THEN TELL YOU WHERE TO MEET ME!

BUT I LIKE TO DO THINGS--

--MY WAY!

SPLASH!

HE'S AS SUSPICIOUS OF ME AS I AM OF HIM!

WORKING WITH SPIDER-MAN IS TURNING OUT TO BE EVEN HARDER THAN MY STINT WITH THE DEFENDERS!*

*SEE DEFENDERS #47-51 --BOB.

BUT ONLY *TOGETHER* DO WE STAND A *CHANCE* AGAINST THE *MAGGIA!*

HMM! THE *NICEST* PEOPLE TURN UP IN YOUR *SUNKEN BATH!*

HELLO, STEVE!

HELLO, MARLENE!

LISTEN, I HAVE A--ER-- *GUEST* COMING! I DON'T WANT TO GIVE HIM ANY *CLUES* AS TO WHO I AM!

SO I GET OUT OF SIGHT AND *MONITOR* HIM, HUH?

YOU CERTAINLY KNOW HOW TO *DISAPPOINT* A GIRL, MR. GRANT!

AND, SECONDS *LATER...*

YOUR MAN'S A BIT *UP-SET,* MOON KNIGHT... I DECIDED TO SHOW *MYSELF* IN!

HOW DID YOU KNOW WHICH *ROOM* I'D BE IN?

HE *COULDN'T* HAVE SEEN ANY OF THE *MANSION* THROUGH THE FOG--

LET'S JUST SAY *I* HAVE A FEW SECRETS OF MY *OWN,* HUH?

--BUT HIS *BELLIGERENCE* IS MAKING IT *HARD* FOR ME TO *TRUST* HIM!

STILL I HAVE *NO* CHOICE!

COME WITH ME, WEB-SPINNER!

I HOPE YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE *DOING,* STEVEN!

SPIDER-MAN'S SUCH AN *UNKNOWN* FACTOR!

WHERE TO, WHITE EYES?

TO THE *COMMAND CENTER* OF MY FIGHT AGAINST THE *MAGGIA*-- MY *WAR ROOM*, IF YOU WILL!

IMPRESSIVE! *EXPENSIVE* TOO, I'LL BET!

DON'T *PRY* TOO CLOSELY INTO *MY* SECRETS, SPIDER-MAN-- IF YOU WISH TO PROTECT YOUR *OWN*!

I JUST LIKE TO KNOW *WHO* MY FRIENDS ARE, MOON KNIGHT--

--AS WELL AS MY *ENEMIES*!

YOUR ENEMIES ARE *HERE*...ON MY *ROGUE'S BOARD*!

EACH ONE HAS AN *INTERNATIONAL* REPUTATION AS *HEAD* OF A POWERFUL *CRIMINAL ORGANIZATION*!

KINGPIN

BIG M

MAGGIA

HIERARCHY OF INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES

MAGGIA INFILTRATION EFFECTIVE OVERALL

AIM

FRANCE

MEXICO

ITALY

HYDRA

DEFUNCT

HAMMERHEAD

SILVERMANE

GR.BRITAIN

HUNGARY

GERMA

THEM

?

AND *EVERY* ONE-- KNOWINGLY OR UN-WITTINGLY -- SERVES THE *MAGGIA*...AND *BIG M*!

GR. BRITAIN

EXCEPT THAT SILVERMANE'S IN THE *HOSPITAL*, AND KINGPIN'S *DEAD*!*

*SEE *AMAZ. SPIDER-MAN* #'S 180 AND 164 RESPECTIVELY --BOB.

I'D LEARNED OF A MAJOR *MEETING* THEY'D PLANNED FOR TONIGHT! *CYCLONE'S* PRESENCE HERE IN NEW YORK *CONFIRMED* IT! BUT THEY FOUND *ME* BEFORE *I* FOUND THEM!*

WE HAVE TO FIND OUT *WHERE* THAT MEETING IS TAKING PLACE IF WE'RE TO LEARN WHAT THE MAGGIA PLANS *NEXT*!

NEW YORK CITY GUIDE

I ALSO HAVE TO PHONE A PHYSICIST I KNOW AT STARK INTERNATIONAL!

I THINK WE CAN WHIP UP A SURPRISE FOR MR. CYCLONE!

HMMM!

*LAST ISH- BOB.

YOUR SCALE MODEL OF MANHATTAN REMINDS ME OF A CIRCLED PAGE IN THAT TOUR GUIDE WE TOOK FROM OUR MAGGIA FRIEND!

NEW GUIDE

GRANT'S TOMB

LOCATED ON RIVERSIDE DRIVE... RESTING PLACE OF

A PAGE SHOWING... GRANT'S TOMB!

NEW YORK GUIDE BOOK

AND SO AFTER A QUICK TRIP TO LONG ISLAND--

WELL, THEY COULDN'T HAVE PICKED A QUIETER SPOT FOR A MIDNIGHT COFFEE KLATCH!

WE'RE OVER THE DOMED ROOF! LET'S GO!

FRENCHIE'LL MOVE THE 'COPTER AWAY BEFORE IT ALERTS ANYONE--

--THAT WE'RE HERE--!

--AND WATCHING THE SHOW!

AND, INSIDE THE IMPRESSIVE MONUMENT...

WHERE'S BIG M, CYCLONE? WE'RE TIRED OF WAITIN'!

YOU WOULD NOT DARE SAY ZAT TO HIS FACE, MON AMI--

--AND I TOLERATE YOUR IMPUDENCE ONLY BECAUSE BIG M HAS NEED OF YOU!

BUT ZERE IS A LIMIT TO WHAT I WILL TOLERATE-- EVEN FOR BIG M!

THIS IS NO *GOOD!* WE CAN'T HEAR A WORD THEY'RE SAYING!

CAN'T WAIT FOR *BIG M* TO SHOW, EITHER!

SOONER OR LATER A GUARD WILL *SPOT* US! WE'LL HAVE TO MOVE IN *NOW!*

YOU KNOW WHAT TO *DO*, WALL-CRAWLER?

YEP!

MAYBE I WAS *WRONG* ABOUT SPIDER-MAN! HE'S A *PRO!*

THERE! MY *TRUNCHEON* WILL HOLD THE *BACK DOOR...*

...WHILE MY *WEBBING* SEALS OFF ANY ESCAPE FROM THE *FRONT!*

NOW TO REJOIN *MOON KNIGHT!*

AND...

ALL SET, WEB-SPINNER?

AS SET AS I'LL *EVER* BE, WHITE EYES!

THEN ALL CAN SAY IS *GOOD LUCK--*

CRASH!

FOR CRYIN' OUT LOUD-- IT'S *SPIDER-MAN!*

--AND *LET'S GO GET 'EM!!*

AN' *MOON KNIGHT!* WE'VE WALKED INTO A *TRAP!*

IMPOSSIBLE! IT--IT CANNOT BE!!

OH, BUT IT *IS*, WINDBAG! AND, AS SOON AS WE PLOW THROUGH THESE HUMAN *PUNCHING BAGS*--

--WE'RE COMING AFTER *YOU!*

DON'T *TALK*, WEB-SLINGER -- *HIT!* THESE BIRDS ARE *TOUGH!*

THE *PICK* OF THE INTER-NATIONAL *UNDER-WORLD!*

THEN IT MUST HAVE BEEN AN *OFF-SEASON* WHEN SOMEONE DID THE *PICKING*, MK--

--OR ELSE BIG M HAS AN EYE FOR *ROTTEN APPLES!*

HOW DO YOU LIKE *THAT?* SPIDER-MAN'S *GOOD-- VERY* GOOD!

HIS PATTER'S GOT THESE GUNSELS SO *NERVOUS*--

GOTCHA, SMILEY!

H-HEY--!

THIP!

--THAT THEY CAN'T EVEN *CONCENTRATE* ON *SHOOTING!*

MOON KNIGHT'S NO *SLOUCH!* MAYBE I WAS *WRONG* TO MISTRUST HIM!

H-HELP!

PUT HIM *DOWN*, SEÑOR!

GLADLY!

¡ POR DIOS! I-- I ALMOST WINGED *EMILIO!*

KRAK!

HAVEN'T YOU BEEN IN THIS BUSINESS LONG ENOUGH, AMIGO--

WOK!

--TO KNOW THAT *ALMOST* DOESN'T *COUNT*?!

ALL RIGHT, MOON KNIGHT! YOU *ASKED* FOR THIS--

--AN' NOW YOU'RE GONNA *GET IT!*

WHAT ARE YOU-- A *TOYOTA SALESMAN* IN YOUR SPARE TIME?

YOU CAN'T EVEN HAVE A *FIGHT* WITHOUT *COMMERCIALS* THESE DAYS!

YEEOWW!

I 'AVE ALLOWED ZEES TO GO ON *LONG* ENOUGH! BIG M WILL *ARRIVE* AT ANY MOMENT!

SHROOM!

EET IS TIME FOR ZEE CYCLONE 'IMSELF TO JOIN IN ZEE FRAY!

ALORS! ZEE BOSS-- HE 'AS BEGUN TO WHIRL!

BUT ZERE IS NO PLACE FOR US-- HIS OWN MEN-- TO HIDE IN ZEES CRYPT!

CYCLONE WILL BLOW US AWAY, TOO!

CAMERATA-- SUSTARE! STOP! YOU WILL KILL US ALL!

HILFE! VE VILL BE SMASHED INTO DER PILLARS!

WROOSH!

FUORI! WE MUST GET OUT! BUT THE BACK DOOR WILL NOT OPEN!

KEEP TRYING, LUIGI!

NO! EET EES SEALED FROM WITHOUT!

AN' THE FRONT DOOR'S NO DIFFERENT! IT'S BLOCKED BY A GIANT SPIDER WEB!

WE-WE'RE TRAPPED IN HERE!

ZEES EES NOT WORKING AS I 'AD PLANNED!

SPIDER-MAN AND ZEE MOON KNIGHT 'AVE SOUGHT COVAIRE--

--WHILE IN ZEES ENCLOSED CRYPT, MY WINDS PIN MY OWN MEN AGAINST ZEE WALLS!

MON AMI-- YOU MUST STOP! WE CANNOT TAKE MUCH MORE!

AT THAT MOMENT, UNSEEN BY CYCLONE OR HIS BUFFETED HENCHMEN, THE STONE LID OF GENERAL ULYSSES S. GRANT'S SARCOPHAGUS BEGINS TO RISE--

CREAK!

--AND A GRIM, SHADOWED FACE PEERS FROM OUT OF THE DARKNESS ONTO A SCENE OF UTTER CHAOS!

THE FOOLS! IS THIS HOW THEY GUARANTEE MY SAFETY?!

WELL, CYCLONE HAS CONCOCTED THIS INSANE BREW OF A BATTLE!

I SHALL LET HIM STEW IN IT!

SLAM!

AND, UNAWARE THAT HIS MASTER HAS ABANDONED HIM, CYCLONE WHIRLS ON!

THIS IS YOUR MOMENT OF TRUTH, CYCLONE!

THE MOMENT I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR--

--TO FIND OUT IF IT WAS WORTH GOING TO LONG ISLAND TO GET THIS!

TONY STARK'S RESEARCHERS HAVE CREATED A MYRIAD OF WONDERS IN THEIR TIME!

IN THIS CASE, MOON KNIGHT'S CONTACT HAS PRODUCED A SIMPLE SILVER CAPSULE!

IT SHATTERS AT THE WHIRLING FEET OF CYCLONE--

PLINK

--AND A SMALL EXPLOSION OF LIQUIFIED GASES DROPS THE TEMPERATURE IN THE EYE OF THE STORM TO WELL BELOW FREEZING.

STUNNED BY THE SUDDEN COLD, CYCLONE FINDS HIS LIMBS STIFFENING -- HIS LUNGS UNABLE TO DRAW A BREATH!

GOING RAPIDLY INTO SHOCK, HE BEGINS TO SLIP SIDEWAYS, OUT OF CONTROL--

--AND CRASHES INTO THE WALL OF THE ENCIRCLING CRYPT AT A TREMENDOUS VELOCITY!

KRUMP!

THE GAUL GIVES UP THE FIGHT!

AND...

WITH THEIR LEADER GONE, THIS GROUP SURE PIPED DOWN FAST!

TOO BAD BIG M NEVER SHOWED, THOUGH!

SO YOUR HUNT FOR THE MAGGIA GOES ON! AS FOR ME-- AFTER THIS HAUL, I HOPE I NEVER HEAR FROM THEM AGAIN!

BUT THE MAGGIA ISN'T DONE WITH OUR WALL-CRAWLING WONDER! YOU'LL SEE IT ALL IN...

SPIDER-MAN NIGHT FEVER!

BE HERE!

STILL ONLY 35¢

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24 NOV

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PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN®

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MARVEL'S TV SENSATION!

SATURDAY NIGHT FUROR!

DEATH DANCE OF THE HYPNO-HUSTLER!

Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN!®

SPIDER-MAN NIGHT FEVER

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING, YOUNG MAN? TAKE YOUR HANDS OFF MY PURSE!
IF THIS IS A JOKE, I'M NOT AMUSED!
I-I DON'T THINK THEY MEAN TO BE FUNNY, MARTHA!
METS WIN 7-1 3-0 TAKE FIRST!
YOU GOT A SMART HUSBAND, LADY! JUST PRETEND NOTHIN'S HAPPENIN'--LIKE THE REST OF THE JOKERS ON THIS TRAIN--AN' YOU WON'T GET HURT!
BUT, AMONG THE "JOKERS", IS ONE YOUNG MAN WHO HAS JUST COME FROM VISITING HIS AILING AUNT MAY IN NEW HOPE HOSPITAL. SO INVOLVED IS PETER PARKER WITH HIS OWN PROBLEMS THAT HE DOESN'T BECOME AWARE OF WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND HIM...

BILL MANTLO AUTHOR / FRANK SPRINGER ARTIST / JOE ROSEN • LETTERS BOB SHAREN • COLORS / BOB HALL EDITOR / JIM SHOOTER EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

...UNTIL NOW, THAT IS!

I HATED TO LEAVE AUNT MAY SO SOON, AND... HUH! WHAT'S GOING ON?!

WE ASKED YA NICE, LADY--

--BUT MAYBE NICE AIN'T GOOD ENOUGH FOR YA!

SLAP!

MEBBE HER OLD MAN CAN CONVINCE HER TO CO-OPERATE!

N-NO, PLEASE!

WHY, YOU-- YOU HOODLUMS! HELP...POLICE!

BUT, IN THESE DAYS OF FISCAL AUSTERITY, TRANSIT COPS ARE FEW AND FAR BETWEEN!

HEY--? GKKK!

OH, MY!

MARTHA AND SAM KRIEGER HAVE ONLY ONE HOPE--

--AND HIS NAME'S PETER PARKER!

WHY DON'T YOU GO-RILLAS PICK ON SOMEONE YOUR OWN AGE?!

SNIK!

MEBBE WE WILL AT THAT, HERO--AN' YOU JUST NOMINATED YOURSELF AS FIRST TO GO!

DON'T BE SHY, HERO! LET'S SEE YOUR FACE! I LIKE TO KNOW WHO I'M CARVIN'!

NO! IF THEY SHOULD EVEN GUESS WHO IT IS THAT'S USING SPIDER-STRENGTH AGAINST THEM--

--MY LIFE AS PETER PARKER IS FINISHED!

YOU'D BETTER RUN, YOUNG MAN!

HE CAN ONLY RUN AS FAR AS THE END OF THE TRAIN, POPS!

BUT THE **TRAIN** AT THAT MOMENT IS ENTERING THE **TUNNEL** TO MANHATTAN--

--AND ALL **WITHIN** IS SUDDENLY PLUNGED INTO **DARKNESS!**

THE **LIGHTS** HAVE GONE **OUT!**

NOW I CAN USE MY **SPIDER-POWERS** WITHOUT BEING **RECOGNIZED!**

SPAK!

I WONDER HOW MANY **OTHER** HEROES RUN INTO **DILEMMAS** LIKE THAT!

M-MARTHA, WHAT-- WHAT'S **HAPPENING?!**

SPROW!

SPROING!

I--I DON'T **KNOW**, SAM... BUT I HOPE THEY AREN'T **HURT-ING** THAT NICE YOUNG MAN **TOO BADLY!**

THIS IS ONE THAT'LL NEVER MAKE THE **DAILY BUGLE**--EVEN THOUGH SPIDEY'S BEEN **EXONERATED**, AND ALL THE **CHARGES** AGAINST HIM **DROPPED!***

TO JOLLY JONAH I'LL ALWAYS BE A **PUBLIC MENACE**--NEVER A **HERO**... LIKE HIS **SON!***

KER-SPRAM!

*SEE **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN*** #186-- BOB.

JOHN JAMESON** A/K/A **MAN WOLF**, RE-APPEARING IN **AMAZ. SPIDER-MAN #190--A MARV WOLFMAN GUEST EDITORIAL.

THE DARKNESS IS PUNCTUATED BY THE SOUNDS OF **BATTLE** AND THE THUD OF FALLING **THUGS!** BUT WHEN AT LAST THE TRAIN ARRIVES IN THE **STATION**, AND THE **LIGHTS** COME ON AGAIN...

SOME **KID** JUST YELLED THAT SOMETHIN' WAS **WRONG** BACK HERE! WHAT--? **HOLY SMOKES!!**

E&F QUEENS

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THEY TRIED TO **ROB** US, CON-DUCTOR...!

BUT THEN THAT *NICE* YOUNG MAN BEAT THEM *ALL* UP, AND--OH! OH, *MY STARS!*

MEANWHILE, PETER PARKER EMERGES FROM THE DEPTHS OF NYC'S SUBWAY SYSTEM...

QUEENS
ESS LOCAL

HOME AT LAST!

EAST SID
FORTY-S
EXIT

I'LL JUST HAVE TIME FOR A FAST SHOWER BEFORE I HIT THE *BOOKS!*

NOT *GRADUATING* WITH THE REST OF MY CLASS *HURT* MORE THAN I'VE CARED TO ADMIT-- EVEN TO *MYSELF!**

BUT I'VE GOT THE SUMMER TO MAKE UP THE *CREDITS* I MISSED-- AND *NOTHING* IS GOING TO DISTRACT ME FROM MY *STUDIES!*

APPEARING TONIGHT!

AT THE BEYOND FOREVER DISCO

THE HYPNO-HUS LER

READ ABOU SPIDER-MAN MENACE

EVERY DA IN TH DAILY BU

*THE WHOLE SORRY STORY WAS TOLD IN ***AMAZING SPIDER-MAN*** #185 -- BOB, MARV, BILL & JIM.

AND, IN THE FRONT HALL OF HIS APARTMENT BUILDING...

NO DISTRACTIONS! HAH! MY WHOLE LIFE HAS BEEN A DISTRACTION!

EVERY TIME PETER PARKER, EGGHEAD, BECOMES PETER PARKER, WEBHEAD--

--MY GRADES DROP LIKE A THERMOMETER AT THE NORTH POLE!

OH, HI, MRS. MUGGINS.

EVENIN', PARKER. HOW'S YOUR AUNT?

GETTING BETTER, THANKS,

I CAN CHALK MOST OF IT UP TO BEING SPIDEY, BUT THEN THERE'S ALSO MY NOT-SO-OBVIOUS SEX APPEAL! I MEAN, WHO COULD STUDY WITH GWEN AROUND-- OR MARY JANE?

AND NOW THERE'S BETTY BRANT...!

WELL, NOT TONIGHT! TONIGHT IT'S JUST ME AND--

SURPRISE!

--THE BOOKS! HUH?!!

WELCOME HOME, PETER! YOU'RE JUST IN TIME FOR YOUR UN-GRADUATION PARTY! WE'RE ALL GOING DANCING!

OH. HEY, GANG, THAT'S JUST...

...SWELL.

C'MON, BOOK-WORM! WE'VE GOT A **TABLE** RESERVED AT THE **BEYOND FOREVER DISCO!**

HUH? BUT THAT'S **FANCY**, FLASH! I DON'T EVEN OWN A **SUIT**-- LET ALONE A **TUXEDO!**

OL' **HARRY'S** TAKEN CARE OF **THAT**, PETE!

IT-- IT SOUNDS AS IF PETER IS IN **PAIN**, MRS. LEEDS!

HE'S JUST NOT USED TO GETTING **DRESSED UP**, SHA SHAN. AND THE NAME'S **BETTY**... MAIDEN NAME, BRANT.

FLASH TELLS ME YOU HAVE A **BOYFRIEND**, HOLLY. COULDN'T HE MAKE IT TONIGHT?

HECTOR AND I HAVEN'T BEEN...GETTING **ALONG**, LIZ! IT'S--!

LISTEN! THE SHOUTING'S STOPPED!

THEY MUST BE COMING **OUT!**

AND... **TA-TAA!**

A REGULAR **JOHN TRAVOLTA!**

I'VE NEVER FELT SO **RIDICULOUS** IN ALL MY LIFE!

DON'T ANY OF YOU HAVE ANY **SYMPATHY**? YOU'RE **DOOMING** ME TO SIX MORE MONTHS AS AN **UNDERGRADUATE!**

NO. ALL RIGHT, I CAN SEE MY **PLEA** IS FALLING ON DEAF EARS! LET'S **GO** AND GET THIS **OVER** WITH!

THAT'S TAKING IT ON THE **CHIN**, PETE!

WELL, WHAT ARE WE **WAITING** FOR?

A SIGH ESCAPES FROM PETER PARKER--

--AS OUR SCENE SHIFTS NORTHWESTWARD TO THE NEW JERSEY SIDE OF THE GEORGE WASHINGTON BRIDGE...

GO BACK! GO BACK!

95 EAST George Washington Br. KEEP RIGHT→ NEW YORK

NO NUKES THROUGH NEW YORK!

NUCLEAR MATERIALS

NUCLEAR MATERIALS DANGER

WE CAN'T PASS! WHADDA WE DO NOW!

IT AIN'T OUR JOB TA FIGHT 'EM--

NUCLEAR MATERIALS

NUCLEAR MATERIALS

--AN', BESIDES, I KINDA AGREE WITH 'EM! I GUESS WE HEAD BACK ALONG THE SIDE ROADS!

HEY, BARNEY! THERE'S A TRUCK STOPPED AHEAD OF US-- BLOCKIN' THE ROAD!

I'LL SIGNAL HIM TO LET US PASS! HEY-- HE'S OPENIN' HIS TAILGATE!

BARNEY--SOMETHIN'S GOT HOLD OF US! PULLIN' US IN!

THE ELECTRO-MAGNET HAS DONE ITS TASK-- JUST AS BIG M SAID IT WOULD!

THEN WE'D BETTER DO OURS BEFORE THOSE DRIVERS GET ON THEIR C.B.--

PWOOF!

NUCLEAR MATERIALS

--AND ALERT THE HIGHWAY PATROL THAT THE MAGGIA'S JUST HIJACKED A TRUCKLOAD OF PROCESSED PLUTONIUM!

THERE! THIS KNOCKOUT GAS'LL HOLD 'EM!

ALL RIGHT! GET THIS TRUCK UP THE RAMP INTO OUR VAN!

WHAT ABOUT THE DRIVERS?

LEAVE 'EM! BY THE TIME THEY WAKE UP AND STAGGER BACK TO THE MAIN HIGHWAY--

--THE WHOLE WORLD WILL BE ON ITS KNEES BEFORE THE MAGGIA!

MORE OF THIS NEXT MONTH--

BEYOND FOREVER!

--FOR AT THIS MOMENT, ONE SMALL PART OF THE WORLD IS ON ITS FEET BEFORE A DISCO PALACE CALLED...

UH--IT'S KIND OF CROWDED, BETTY!

COULDN'T WE JUST GO TO A MOVIE?

PETER, WHY DO YOU TRY TO ACT LIKE SUCH A DUD?

WHO'S ACTING?

IN Pete's

AND, INSIDE THE GLITTERING BALLROOM...

GEE! WE'RE NOT AS DRESSED UP AS I THOUGHT!

FORGET STYLE! LET'S FIGHT OUR WAY TO A TABLE BEFORE WE GET HUSTLED ON!

HI! ARE YOU TOURISTS? WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO DRINK BEFORE DINNER?

UH--SIX COKES AND A PEPSI LIGHT!

YOU MEAN, AS MIXERS? DON'T YOU WANT ANY-THING IN THEM?

YOU HAVE ANY ICE?

PETE, LOOK! ISN'T THAT--?

MARY JANE! ER-- HI!

FANCY MEETING YOU HERE, MR. PARKER!

SINCE I PHONED ALL LAST NIGHT TRYING TO INVITE YOU TO GO WITH ME!

OH, PETER! I'M SORRY! I HOPE MARY JANE DOESN'T THINK--!

FORGET IT, BETTY! WE'RE HERE TO HAVE A GOOD TIME, RIGHT?

LET'S DANCE BEFORE I DIE LAUGHING!

AND, AS A LESS-THAN-ECSTATIC PETER PARKER TRIES TO MAKE THE BEST OF A BAD SITUATION ON THE **DANCE FLOOR...**

...ALLOW US TO CONDUCT YOU **BACK-STAGE** TO THE **MANAGER'S OFFICE...**

...WHERE THE BEYOND FOREVER'S **PROPRIETOR** HAS JUST DISCOVERED THAT HIS **PROCEEDS** ARE BEING PILFERED BY...

HUSTLER?! WHAT ARE **YOU** DOING BACK--?

MY SAFE!!

KLIK!

LOOKS LIKE YOU **CAUGHT** ME DEAD-TO-RIGHTS, BERNIE!

WHY, YOU-- YOU **HOODLUM!** "GIVE ME A **CHANCE**, BERNIE!" YOU SAID. "LEMME PLAY **BEYOND FOREVER!**" YOU SAID. **INGRATE!** I PAID YOUR EXPENSES-- GOT YOU PUBLICITY-- AND **THIS** IS HOW YOU PAY ME BACK?!

I WANT **EVERYTHING**, BERNIE! I WANT IT **ALL!** AN' AS THE **HYPNO-HUSTLER** I GOT THE POWER TO **TAKE** IT!

LOOK INTO MY **EYES**, BERNIE!

N-NO, I... CAN'T **THINK**... DIZZY... THAT **MUSIC**--!

GO WITH THE **FLOW**, BERNIE! THE SONG'S CALLED "**BLOOD FROM A STONE**," MAN--

--AN' YOU'RE JUST THE **FIRST** T'GET SQUEEZED **PENNILESS**--

WHAT **MORE** DO YOU **WANT** FROM ME??

--BY MY MESMERIZING **MELODIES!**

N-NOOOO...

OH, *YEAH*, BERNIE! YOU TOOK ME OFF THE *STREETS*, AN' I *THANK* YA FOR THAT! BUT THIS DISCO DUDE'S GOT *PLANS*--

-- AN' IF IT TAKES SOME *GRAND LARCENY* SUPPLEMENTIN' MY *MUSIC* TO PUT ME OVER THE TOP...WELL, I CAN *DIG IT!*

SORRY IT HADDA BE *YOU*, BERNIE!

SHOULD WE KEEP *SINGING*, HUSTLER?

NO, MY LACY LADIES-- YOUR *HYPNOTIC* REN-DITION OF MY MUSIC HAS *ACCOMPLISHED* ITS PURPOSE!

AH, IT WAS *DISCO MAGIC* THE DAY I DISCOVERED THAT THE SOOTHING *SIBILANCE* OF A LITTLE-KNOWN BACKUP BAND CALLED THE *MERCY KILLERS*--

-- PERFECTLY *COMPLEMENTED* MY MIND-NUMBING *HYPNOTIC* ABILITIES! WE ARE *INSEPARABLE*, DEAR LADIES!

AND TONIGHT WE *CLEAN UP!*

HAVING A GOOD TIME, BETTY?

WHAT--? OH, I'M SORRY, PETER. I WAS JUST THINKING OF *NED*.

SWELL! HER THOUGHTS ARE ON HER *HUSBAND* WHO'S STILL IN PARIS--

-- WHILE I CAN'T GET MINE OFF *MARY JANE!* HOW DOES MY LIFE GET SO *COMPLICATED?*

HMM! HERE COMES THE MAIN ATTRACTION!

WELCOME TO *BEYOND FOREVER*, BROTHERS AND SISTERS! NOW GET DOWN THE *BEAT* WITH OUR SPECIAL, LIVE SHOW--

--THE *HYPNO-HUSTLER* AND HIS *MERCY KILLERS!*

*THE MUSIC IS **LOUD**--**INCESSANT!** IT WASHES OUT OVER THE DANCE FLOOR IN **WAVES** OF SOUND...*

...IT CARRIES WITH IT THE WILL--THE CONSCIOUSNESS OF THE DANCERS...

HEY! SOMETHING'S GOING ON HERE!

...AND RECEDES WITH THE SUBTLE INSISTENCE OF THE EBBING TIDE!

FLASH? LIZ? HARRY? HEY, PEOPLE, IF THIS IS SOME KIND OF JOKE--?!

BUT A JOKE IT MOST DEFINITELY IS NOT!

IT'S THE MUSIC! IT--IT'S MESMERIZING THEM... GUIDING THEIR MOVEMENTS!

H-HAVEN'T FELT ANYTHING T-THIS STRONG SINCE MINDWORM!* G-GOT TO FIGHT IT!

* SEE AMAZ. SPIDER-MAN* 138 -- BOB.

BUT, EVEN AS PETE RESISTS, ALL OTHERS ON THE DANCE FLOOR SUCCUMB...

...TO THE WILL-SAPPING PERFORMANCE OF THE HYPNO-HUSTLER!

MUSIC-- THE HUSTLER'S VOICE--FLASHING LIGHTS--EVERYTHING CONTRIBUTES TO THE HYPNOTIC EFFECT! IT--IT'S ALMOST... OVERPOWERING!

G-GOT TO USE THE DANCERS AS COVER-- GET OUT OF SIGHT--

--AND INTO COSTUME BEFORE IT HOOKS ME AS WELL!

THWIP!

I'LL BORROW A TRICK FROM ULYSSES--

--AND STUFF BALLED-UP WEBBING INTO MY EARS TO CUT OUT THE SOUND!

"THEN WE'LL SEE HOW SPIDER-MAN FARES AGAINST THE HYPNO-HUSTLER!"

AH, FAIR LADIES AND GENTS-- SO GLAD YOU COULD COME TONIGHT!

YOU'RE ALREADY GROOVIN' ON MY FIRST SET-- A LITTLE TUNE CALLED "SWEET SURRENDER"--

--SO I DON'T THINK YOU'LL MIND IF THE LADIES AND I TAKE A LITTLE BREAK--

--TO *RELIEVE* YOU OF YOUR HARD-EARNED *CASH!*

YOU MAY *PROCEED*, LADIES! I THINK OUR GUESTS WILL BE ONLY TOO *HAPPY* TO COOPERATE!

*MOVING SWIFTLY AMONGST THE ASSEMBLED REVELLERS, THE **MERCY KILLERS** DIVEST THEM OF THEIR WALLETS, PURSES AND JEWELRY!*

WHEN...

HO-*KAY!* I'VE SEEN *ENOUGH!*

YOU'RE A *CROOK*, HUSTLER, WITH AN INTERESTING *ANGLE*--

--BUT THE *PARTY'S OVER!*

SPIDER-MAN!

YOU *CAN'T* STOP ME! NOT *NOW!*

I CAN'T *HEAR* HIM, BUT I CAN *IMAGINE* THE SPIEL! EVERY VILLAIN THINKS HE'S *SPECIAL*, BUT...

...I'VE GOT *NEWS* FOR YOU, PAL--YOU'RE ALL THE *SAME!*

WRONG, WALL-CRAWLER! THE HUSTLER'S DIFFER-ENT FROM ANY-ONE YOU'VE EVER FOUGHT!

YEEOWWW!!

SPRAZ!

I'M ALL NEW... UNIQUE--

--AN' I GOT AN OBLIGATION TO THE GANG IN CORONA PARK T'KEEP ON KEEPIN' ON!

I THINK HE'S ABOUT TO MAKE A POINT...!

I SPENT MONTHS RIGGIN' THIS SUIT UP SPECIAL, BUG-EYES!

BLADES FROM HIS BOOTS?! IF HE CONNECTS, IT'LL LOOK LIKE I'VE GONE THROUGH A VEGEMATIC!

IMAGINE -- THE WORLD'S ONLY SLICED AND DICED SUPER-HERO!

HAH! MAYBE HE'LL GET STUCK IN THE FLOOR!

NO SUCH LUCK! THE BLADES RETRACTED AT THE LAST SECOND!

WHAT THE--?! HOW'D YOU MOVE SO FAST??

YOU SOUND LIKE MY CREEPY TRUANT OFFICER, WEBHEAD!

HUSTLER, DON'T BE A CHUMP! THIS CAN ONLY END ONE WAY!

NOW GAS FROM HIS BOOTS? IS THERE NO END TO THIS GOOFBALL'S GIMMICKRY?!

A FEW MORE *GADGETS* AND HE COULD GIVE LESSONS TO THE *TINKERER!*

SWAP!

STILL, I SUPPOSE I OUGHTTA BE *GRATEFUL* TO HIM FOR SPICING UP A LACKLUSTER EVENING!

SWOK!

UNHH! I DESERVED THAT ONE FOR NOT PAYING ATTENTION!

NOW I KNOW WHAT A *BASEBALL* FEELS LIKE WHEN *REGGIE JACKSON* COMES TO THE PLATE!

AND THERE GO THE *BOOT-BLADES* AGAIN!

GUESS HE'S RUN OUT OF *TRICKS!*

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO *FINISH* YOU?!

I ASSUME HE'S ASKING WHAT IT TAKES TO FINISH ME, AND JUDGING FROM HIS *OVER-MY-SHOULDER* STARE--

--I'LL BET HE'S CALLED HIS *RESERVES* INTO THE ACT! YEP, THE MERCY KILLERS' *LIPS* ARE MOVING--

BUT WONDER BOY HERE CAN'T FIGURE THAT *OUT*...AND WHAT HE CAN'T *FIGURE*--

--MAKES HIM *MAD!* TSK

--BUT WITH MY EARS *PLUGGED*, I'M NOT AFFECTED BY THEIR *HYPNOTIC CROONING* ONE BIT!

WHEN WILL THESE PIKERS *LEARN* THAT ANGER ONLY CLOUDS THEIR *JUDGEMENT*--

HUH? WHADDAYA THINK YOU'RE...?!

--SETTING THEM UP FOR THE *SIMPLEST* OF MANEUVERS--

HOL' *STILL*, YA BLASTED JUMPIN' JACK!

--LIKE *THIS ONE*?!

WHAT IN--? OH, *NO*! NOT MY...

...*HEADPHONES*!!

BINGO!

*AND THE EFFECT IS BOTH **INTRIGUING** TO OUR WALL-CRAWLING OBSERVER...*

*BEREFT OF HIS PROTECTIVE **EARPHONES**, THE HUSTLER IS LEFT WIDE OPEN TO THE MESMERIZING **SONG** OF HIS OWN COMPATRIOTS IN CRIME...THE **MERCY KILLERS**!*

...AND *INSTANTANEOUS*!

HE'S **ZONKED!** WITHOUT HIS **EAR GEAR** HE'S AS SUSCEPTIBLE AS ANYONE ELSE TO THE **MK'S SIREN SONG**--

--BUT THEY'RE STILL UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF HIS **HYPNOTIC LENSES!** AS LONG AS THEY GO ON **SINGING**, EVERYONE HERE WILL STAY IN LULLABYLAND!

WHICH GIVES ME AN **IDEA**...!

AND SO, MERE MOMENTS LATER...

OH, **HEY!** WHAT HAPPENED?!

I FEEL LIKE I'VE BEEN **ASLEEP!**

ME, TOO!

WHO TURNED OFF THE **MUSIC**?!

LOOK! IT'S THE **MERCY KILLERS**-- WITH THEIR MOUTHS **WEBBED SHUT!**

SPIDER-MAN?! BUT... **WHY**?!

I-- I SEEM TO REMEMBER... THEIR SINGING **ENTRANCED** US-- AND MY **PURSE** IS GONE!

ALL OUR VALUABLES ARE PILED ON THE **STAGE**, BETTY-- AND, **LOOK!** UP ON THE **GLOBE!**

IT'S THE **HYPNO-HUSTLER!** BUT..?

SURE! NOW IT MAKES SENSE! HE MUST'VE HYPNOTIZED US IN ORDER TO **ROB** US... AND **SPIDEY** SAVED THE DAY!

AND SINCE NO ONE BUT **ME** REMEMBERS **OTHERWISE**, I'M BETTING THEY **BUY** IT ALL THE WAY!

I-- I GUESS WE'D BETTER CALL A **COP!**

GEE!

NEXT: CARRION, MY WAYWARD SON!

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PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN®

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THE MASKED MARAUDER, THE TERRIBLE TRI-MAN!

AND A VAULT FULL OF FEAR!

pollard/PATTERSON 78

MARVEL'S TV SENSATION!

While attending a demonstration in radiology, student PETER PARKER was bitten by a spider which had accidentally been exposed to RADIOACTIVE RAYS. Through a miracle of science, Peter soon found that he had GAINED the arachnid's powers...and had, in effect, become a human spider...

Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN!®

HEAR YE! IN SECRET SESSION IS THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE MAGGIA MET!

I AM BIG M, CURRENT LEADER OF THE MAGGIA! WE HAVE READ YOUR PROPOSAL--

--YET WE STILL DO NOT SEE HOW YOU PLAN TO SUCCEED IN ELIMINATING SPIDER-MAN--

--WHERE THE RESOURCES OF THE MAGGIA HAVE THUS FAR FAILED!

SIMPLY PUT, I KNOW MORE ABOUT THE WALL-CRAWLER THAN HE KNOWS ABOUT HIMSELF!

AND, WHILE YOU WISH HIM REMOVED BECAUSE HE HAS INTERFERED IN MAGGIA OPERATIONS--*

*PPTSS #'S 22&23 AND MARVEL TEAM-UP #72-- BOB.

1967

--I WISH HIM DESTROYED--CRUSHED LIKE THE LOATHSOME, MURDEROUS INSECT HE IS! ALL I ASK IS THAT THE MAGGIA LEAVE SPIDER-MAN TO ME...

...AND I WILL BRING YOU HIS HEAD TO HANG ALONGSIDE THIS EMPTY MASK!

BEGINNING...A SPIDEY CLASSIC LIKE YOU'VE NEVER SEEN!

BILL MANTLO WRITER | JIM MOONEY ARTIST

FRANK SPRINGER INKS | BOB HALL EDITOR

Jim Shooter EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

CARRION, MY WAYWARD SON!

ELAINE HEINL LETTERS
P. GOLDBERG COLORS

FOR A MOMENT THERE IS SILENCE AS THE MAGGIA LEADERS SIT AWED BY THE VERY MALEVOLENCE OF CARRION'S PRESENCE! THEN...

YOU STILL WILL NOT TELL US WHAT YOU CLAIM TO KNOW...

..THAT GUARANTEES YOU'LL SUCCEED IN ELIMINATING SPIDER-MAN!

AND YOU HAVE DISPLAYED A KNOWLEDGE OF COVERT MAGGIA OPERATIONS--SUCH AS THE CYCLONE AFFAIR--*

*PPTSS #'s 22 & 23--Bob

--THAT MAKES YOU A VERY REAL DANGER TO US!

WE REJECT YOUR PROPOSAL! PLEASE, ACCEPT MY SINCEREST APOLOGIES--!

KLIK!

"--BUT YOU CANNOT BE ALLOWED TO LEAVE HERE...! ALIVE!"

FOOLS...

...CARRION HISSES--

--AS MAGGIA HIT MEN EMERGE FROM THE SHADOWS ON EVERY SIDE!...

ALL RIGHT, GRISLY--OUTSIDE!

HE AIN'T EVEN PACKIN' A ROD!

CARE--FUL--

--HE'S REACHIN' FOR THAT POUCH AT HIS HIP!

AND THE *HAND*-- THEY SAY-- IS *QUICKER* THAN THE *EYE!*

DUST?! HE'S THROWIN' *DUST* AT US--?

ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE YOU TO ONE OF THE *MOST*-*TRAVELLED* OF MANKIND'S *ENEMIES!* IT HAS BEEN CALLED BY *MANY* NAMES--THE *POX*... *PLAGUE*... *PESTILENCE*--

--BUT *I* PREFER THE *RED DEATH!*

C-CAN'T... *BREATHE*-- *CHOKING!!*

AND...

I-I DON'T KNOW *HOW* YA DID THAT, CREEP--BUT *ONE MORE* STEP AN' YOU'RE A *DEAD MAN!*

HOW *PERCEPTIVE* OF YOU, MY FRIEND!

KPOW!

I--I *WARNED* YA!

OH, *MY GOD!* THE-- THE *BULLET* IT--

--IT WENT RIGHT *THROUGH* YA... AN' YOU'RE *STILL COMING!*

G-GKKK

BE THANKFUL I HAVE NO MORE TIME TO WASTE--

--ON MERE UNDERLINGS!

IGNORING THE CARNAGE HE HAS CAUSED, CARRION TURNS TO...

BIG M! YOU HAVE NOW SEEN BUT A SAMPLING OF MY POWERS!

IS YOUR ANSWER THE SAME?

YOU ARE POWERFUL AND UNPREDICTABLE, CARRION--TOO MUCH OF BOTH!

KLIK

I FEAR-- WERE WE TO JOIN FORCES--

--YOU WOULD SOON PRESENT A CHALLENGE TO MY LEADERSHIP!

I CANNOT ALLOW THAT!

CARRION LURCHES SUDDENLY--

--AS THE FLOOR DROPS AWAY FROM BENEATH HIM IN RESPONSE TO BIG M's SECRET SIGNAL!

BUT, DEFYING GRAVITY, CARRION REMAINS STANDING IN PLACE-- HOVERING IN MID-AIR!

AND THEN, LEAVING BEHIND THE STENCH OF BRIMSTONE--

--AND A CHILL AS COLD AS THE GRAVE--

CARRION IS GONE!

THE BICENTENNIAL LIGHTS SPARKLE AND DANCE AGAINST A PANORAMA OF DARKNESS.

IT SEEMS ALMOST SACRILEGIOUS TO AFFIX A THIN STRAND OF WEBBING TO THE MAJESTIC TOWER OF NEW YORK CITY'S "CATHEDRAL OF THE SKIES"--

--BUT THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING HAS SURVIVED OTHER INDIGNITIES IN ITS 47- YEAR HISTORY! SURELY IT WILL NOT BEGRUDGE MOMENTARY SUPPORT--

--TO A COSTUMED YOUTH SORELY TROUBLED IN HIS SOUL!

DESPITE NOT GRADUATING WITH THE REST OF MY CLASS--

--AND AUNT MAY'S STILL BEING IN THE HOSPITAL--*

DENHAM, LOOK!

HOLY SMOKES, JACK! IT'S SPIDER-MAN!

*CURRENTLY RECOUNTED IN AMAZING SPIDER-MAN -- BOB

--THINGS HAVE BEEN GOING PRETTY WELL LATELY...TOO WELL!

SOMETHING MUST BE WRONG!

RATS! IF I WASN'T SO AFRAID OF WHAT HE'D HAVE TO SAY, I'D CHECK IN TO SEE A SHRINK!

BUT WHAT DO I TELL HIM MY PROBLEM IS? THAT EVEN WHEN I'M HAPPY, I'M UNHAPPY? THAT I BLEW A MARRIAGE PROPOSAL TO THE GAL I THOUGHT I LOVED...

...AND THAT A GIRL WHO'S *MARRIED* THINKS SHE LOVES ME?!*

I'VE BEEN TRYING TO *DISENTANGLE* MYSELF FROM BETTY-- THINGS WOULD NEVER WORK BETWEEN US.

SHE USED TO LOVE *PETER PARKER*--BUT SHE BLAMES *SPIDER-MAN* FOR HER BROTHER'S DEATH.*

SHEESH! A GUY COULD GET *SCHIZOPHRENIC* IN THIS BIZ!

*AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #11 -- BOB

MARY JANE WATSON AND *BETTY BRANT* RESPECTIVELY -- BOB.

I MEAN-- *WHO* AM I?

THE *WEBBED WONDER* OR THE *HONOR STUDENT*?

I CAN'T BE *SPIDEY* FOREVER, CAN I?

THERE'RE *NEW HEROES* THESE DAYS--*

--THE AGE *I* WAS WHEN I FIRST GOT STARTED!

*NOVA APPEARS COURTESY OF *NOVA MAGAZINE* -- BOB

AND THE TIME'LL COME WHEN I WON'T BE ABLE TO *STRUT* MY STUFF--I'LL GOOF UP... AND *WHAMMO*, INSTANT *RETIREMENT!*

I WON'T HAVE *TEAMMATES* TO FALL BACK ON LIKE THE *FF* OR THE *AVENGERS!*

* THE *HUMAN TORCH* APPEARS REGULARLY IN THE *FANTASTIC FOUR*-- BOB

THEN IT'LL JUST BE *ME*-- *PETER PARKER!*

WHAT'LL I DO *THEN*, WORLD, HUH?

WHAT DO I DO THEN??

THERE IS NO ONE TO *ANSWER* PETE'S AGONIZING QUESTION--

--AND LIFE IN THE BIG CITY GOES ON!

I-I KNOW I PROMISED AWILDA, MY SISTER, THAT I WOULD NOT BECOME THE WHITE TIGER AGAIN!

BUT IT WAS TOO HOT TO PRETEND TO BE STUDYING--

--AND BOOKS JUST AREN'T REALITY IN THE SOUTH BRONX ANYWAY...NOT FOR HECTOR AYALA--

"--AND NOT WHEN THE SOUNDS OF A CAR THEFT CALL OUT TO ME TO BECOME...

¡OYÉ, COMPAÑEROS! ¡MIRA! ÉL ES--

--THE WHITE TIGER!

PALE WHITE AGAINST A PALE MOON, THE LITHE FIGURE LEAPS FROM OUT OF THE NIGHT! HE IS SILENT-- SPECTRAL-- LIKE A HOARY GHOST OUT TO WREAK VENGEANCE ON THE LIVING!

¡HOLA, MIS AMIGOS! FROM THE MANNER OF YOUR *DRESS*--

--IT SEEMS CERTAIN THAT *CAR* TO WHICH YOU SOUGHT *ACCESS*--

--DOES NOT *BELONG* TO YOU!

SAVAGE

AVAGE

THE *SAVAGE SKULLS* STAND THEIR GROUND, AND AND THE TIGER FEELS A PANG OF *REMORSE*...

THESE ARE HIS PEOPLE--STREET PEOPLE!

YOU SHOULDA MINDED YOUR OWN *BUSINESS* COMPADRE--

--INSTEADA MINDIN- *OURS!*

YOU ARE A *FOOL*, SEÑOR--TO ESCALATE *GRAND LARCENY* TO A CHARGE OF *MURDER!*

SAVAGE

THOK!

I ONLY GET *BOOKED* IF I'M *CAUGHT*, TIGER--AN' YOU AIN'T *TURNIN' IN* NO... *HEY!*

FWAM!

YOU WERE *SAYING*, SEÑOR...?

WITH THE FELLING OF THEIR *LEADER*, THE *SAVAGE SKULLS* TURN--

--AND *FLEE*, ABANDONING THOSE LESS *SWIFT!*

WITH ALL THE *TURMOIL* THAT IS IN HIS OWN SOUL--

--THE TIGER *GLARES* INTO THE BOY'S FRIGHTENED *EYES!*

HE WANTS TO SCREAM--TO PENETRATE THE KID'S MIND WITH SENSE--BUT HE KNOWS FROM EXPERIENCE THAT SENSE TAKES A BACK SEAT TO **POVERTY** IN THE SOUTH BRONX!

WHY DID YOU DO IT? ¿POR QUÉ?!

BECAUSE I'M FROM THE **NEIGHBORHOOD**, MAN--I'M A **SAVAGE!**

THAT **CAR** BELONGS TO A **PUSHER**--DEALIN' DOPE TO MY PEOPLE!

WE THOUGHT WE COULD **SCARE** HIM OUT-

--WHEN **YOU** STOPPED US! WHERE YOU **AT**, MAN? YOU A **PUERTO RICAN** WHO CARES FOR **LA RAZA**... OR YOU USIN' YOUR **POWERS** TO DUMP ON THE PEOPLE?

HEY, BROTHER! THANKS FOR PROTECTIN' MY **WHEELS!**

--FROM THIS PENNY-ANTE **STREET SCUM!**

SNAP!

COPS DON'T PROTECT US LOCAL **BUSINESS-MEN!** WE COULD **USE** A BRIGHT BOY LIKE **YOU!**

WHADDA YA **SAY**, TIGER?

LEAVE THE SOUTH BRONX, **SENOR ESPUMA***--AND DO **NOT** COME BACK!

¿**COMPRENDE USTED**?

KPOW!

*SCUM, EN ESPANOL--BOB

¡CARÁJO! YOU BUSTED THE MAN'S **JAW**, TIGER!

SAVAGE SKULLS

GET UP AN GET **GOIN'**, PUNK--LIKE EL TIGRE BLANCO **SAID!**

I--I'M GETTIN'--BUT I'LL BE **BACK**, TURKEY! **COUNT** ON IT!

TRY IT... AN' BOTH THE **SAVAGE SKULLS**--

--AN' THE **WHITE TIGER**'LL BE WAITIN' FOR YOU!

WONIT WE, AMIGO? HEY--

--HE'S... **GONE!**

THE NEW CITICORP CENTER RISES 59 STORIES INTO THE MAN-HATTAN NIGHT.

HEADQUARTERS FOR THOUSANDS OF CITIBANK EMPLOYEES, IT IS SEEN BY ITS BUILDERS AS A COMMITMENT TO THE FUTURE OF A CITY PERPETUALLY ON THE VERGE OF DEFAULT.

WHILE TO OTHERS IT REPRESENTS MERELY ANOTHER TARGET!

ESPECIALLY IF THOSE "OTHERS" ARE... THE MAGGIA!

HEY, YOU CAN'T PARK HERE!

I'M HAVIN' TROUBLE WITH MY TRUCK, DOC. YOU KNOW OF A GARAGE AROUND HERE?

THERE'S ONE OPEN NEAR THE MIDTOWN TUNNEL!

THANKS, DOC!

THANKS A LOT!

PWOOF!

A-AGH! ...GAS!

YEAH, DOC... GAS! YOU'LL BE OUT FOR ABOUT AN HOUR! PLENTY LONG FOR THE MAGGIA TO GET WHAT IT'S COME HERE FOR!

JOIN ME IN THE CAB, HUH, DOC?

SLC 124

WHILE I GIVE THE "GO SIGNAL!"

CLICK

POINT TO BIG M! I'M IN POSITION! IT'S YOUR BABY NOW!

THE BACK OF THE VAN OPENS WITH A...

SREECH

PSC.14810

THERE IS A BLINDING FLASH OF LIGHT--

--A ROAR REMINISCENT OF IGNITING ROCKET ENGINES--

P.S.C-14510

--A RUSHING SOUND, AND...

KROOSHHH

WHILE, WITHIN THE SINISTER TRUCK...

YOUR JOB IS TO DISABLE THE ALARM SYSTEMS WHILE MY BIRDROID PROCEEDS TO THE VAULTS! GO!

I DON'T LIKE IT-- PLAYING SECOND FIDDLE TO A BLASTED ROBOT!

IT AIN'T RIGHT, BIG M! WHAT IF IT BLOWS A FUSE OR SOMETHING?

THAT "ROBOT," AS YOU CALL IT, IS MY GREATEST CREATION! IT IS INFALLIBLE -- WHILE YOU, GENTLEMEN, ARE...EXPENDABLE!

NEED I FURTHER ELABORATE UPON MY THREAT?

UH--NO, BIG M! YOU'RE THE BOSS!

FOR NOW!

THEN PROCEED TO YOUR TASKS--

--THAT THE MAGGIA MAY REIGN SUPREME IN THE GLOBAL UNDERWORLD!

BUT THE MAGGIA'S PLAN RELIES ON STRIKING WITH LIGHTNING SPEED!

VROARRR

BIG M KNOWS THAT THE SOUND OF JET BACKWASH CANNOT LONG REMAIN UNNOTICED IN THE CONCRETE CANYONS OF MANHATTAN!

BUT HE WOULD BE CHAGRINED TO KNOW HOW QUICKLY HIS FEARS ARE PROVEN RIGHT!

EITHER SOMEBODY NEEDS ONE HECKUVA MUFFLER JOB--

--OR THEY'VE MOVED CAPE KENNEDY TO MANHATTAN!

SOMEHOW I DON'T THINK EITHER IS THE CASE!

VR-R-OARRR!

AND IT LOOKS LIKE I'M RIGHT!

COSTUMED GUNSELS POURING FROM THAT TRUCK--

--FOLLOWING A BIRD-SHAPED BUZZ-BOMB INTO THE CITIBANK BUILDING!!

SPIDER-MAN! NOW WE'RE IN FOR IT!

VROOSH!

KROOM!

SPREAD OUT! HE CAN'T GET US ALLLLL...

SNOK!

THEN WHY DON'T YOU JUST POINT OUT YOUR LEADER, CHUCKLES?

SWAM!

I ALWAYS DID PREFER QUALITY TO QUANTITY!

U- UNHH!

SPIDER-MAN--AGAIN! I COULD EXTERMINATE HIM NOW--BUT THEN I WOULD NOT LEARN HOW HE STYMIED MY PLANS FIRST AT GRANT'S TOMB... AND NOW HERE! HE SEEMS AS FAMILIAR AS CARRION WITH MAGGIA OPERATIONS!

DON'T RUN OFF, BOYS! I'M NOT FINISHED WITH YOU YET!

THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK, WEBHEAD!

YOU'RE RIGHT--IT IS WHAT I THINK! WANNA MAKE SOMETHING OF IT?

I THOUGHT NOT.

KOK!

PLEASANT DREAMS, PINHEAD!

YOO-HOO BOYS! 1-2-3 RINGOLEVIO...

...I SEE YOU!

HE'S NUTS! THERE AIN'T NO WAY T'SHAKE HIM!

AN' HE'S HERDIN' US RIGHT DOWN TOWARD--

"--THE VAULTS!"

"IF WE'RE THERE WHEN THE BOSS'S BUZZIN' BUZZARD MAKES CONTACT--!"

BWAROOM!

THE BIRDROID PULLED IT OFF! THE VAULT DOOR'S BEEN ATOMIZED!

THAT METALLIC-LOOKING FLYING THING THAT BUSTED INTO THE BUILDING--!

IT WAS A BOMB!!

NOW ALL WE GOTTA DO IS *THROTTLE* TH'S WEB-HEADED *PAIN*-- AN' WE'RE IN THE *MONEY!*

OH, IS *THAT* ALL?

I'M SORRY TO HAVE TO *DISAPPOINT* YOU WHEN YOU'RE SO CLOSE TO *RETIRING* ON YOUR ILL-GOTTEN GAINS, BOYS--

--BUT IT'S *PAST* YOUR *BEDTIME!*

AND I'VE GOTTA CHECK OUT THIS *BIRDROID* OF YOURS--

--BEFORE A *SECOND BLAST* TAKES THE WHOLE BLAMED *BUILDING* WITH IT!

CIAO, GOOFBALLS! SEE YA IN THE *FUNNY PAGES!*

WHILE COMING UPON THE SCENE OF SPIDEY'S TRIUMPH...

IDIOTS! IS THIS *POWER*--TO ATTAIN *SUPREMACY* OVER SUCH GROSS *INCOMPETENTS?*

BUT *SPIDER-MAN* WILL GET NO *FURTHER*--

"--ONCE HE ENCOUNTERS ... MY *CREATION!*"

HOO BOY! THE THREE-FOOT THICK *VAULT DOOR'S* BEEN *BLOWN* OFF ITS HINGES!

VROOM

HEY! THAT SOUND! THE *BIRDROID'S* STILL IN *ONE PIECE*--

NO SIGN OF ANY *DEBRIS* FROM THE *BOMB,* THOUGH!

--AND FLYING FOR THE *SAFE DEPOSIT BOXES!*

VOOSH!

GUESS I'D BETTER... WAIT!

THAT LIGHT--! SOMETHING'S HAPPENING IN THERE!

THE--THE BIRDROID'S SHIFTING FORM! C-CHANGING SHAPE!

IT'S TRANSFORMING ITSELF F-FROM BIRD--

--TO-TO M-MAN ... I THINK!

-- AND THEN, AS IF RESPONDING TO AN UNVOICED COMMAND...

HE'S ATTACKING!

UH-- HI, BIG FELLA! CAN'T WE TALK THIS OVER LIKE GENTLEMEN?!

UNHH! SOME-HOW I DIDN'T THINK HE'D BE AMENABLE TO REASON!

THRAM

THE MASSIVE ANDROID STARES BALEFULLY AT HIS AWED OBSERVER IN THE DEVASTATED VAULT--

HE-HE'S *IGNORING* ME--GOING FOR THE *MONEY!* BUT THERE'S NOTHING *HE* CAN SPEND IT ON--EXCEPT MAYBE A *LUBE JOB*--

--SO HE'S GOTTA BE WORKING FOR SOMEONE *ELSE!*

AND THE *MILLION DOLLAR QUESTION* IS... *WHO?!*

SO *HOW* DO I FIND OUT? WELL--I COULD ALWAYS TRY THE *DIRECT* APPROACH... *ASKING* HIM!

HEY, BALDY--GOT A *MINUTE?* MIND IF I ASK A *PERSONAL* QUESTION--LIKE WHO *PULLS* YOUR *STRINGS?!*

MY *TRI-MAN* CANNOT REPLY, SPIDER-MAN--BUT PERHAPS *I* CAN PROVIDE THE *ANSWER* YOU SEEK!

HOLY SMOKES! IT'S--!

THE *MASKED MARAUDER,* YOU MISBEGOTTEN MISCREANT!

AND I NEED ONLY MY RECREATED *TRI-MAN* AND MY ALL-POWERFUL *OPTI-BLASTS* TO MAINTAIN MY POSITION AS *BIG M,* LEADER OF THE *MAGGIA*--

ZAT!

--AND TO *SNUFF OUT,* ONCE AND FOR ALL TIME, A SNIVELING *NUISANCE* SUCH AS *YOU* HAVE BECOME!

TH-THAT *BLAST*--HITTING MY *EYES!* I-I CAN'T SEE! *I'M BLIND!*

NEXT ISSUE

THE MASKED MARAUDER, TRI-MAN, CARRION, THE WHITE TIGER AND A HELPLESS SPIDEY!

MINE EYES HAVE SEEN THE GLORY!

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PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN®

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MARVEL'S TV SENSATION!

BLINDED BY THE MASKED MARAUDER, SPIDER-MAN PLUNGES TO HIS DOOM!

...TO DIE IN DARKNESS!

While attending a demonstration in radiology, student PETER PARKER was bitten by a spider which had accidentally been exposed to RADIOACTIVE RAYS. Through a miracle of science, Peter soon found that he had GAINED the arachnid's powers...and had, in effect, become a human spider...

STAN LEE PRESENTS: THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN!®

BOISTEROUS BILL MANTLO WRITER | GENTLEMAN JIM MOONEY PENCILER | FEARLESS FRANK SPRINGER INKER | JO (COOL) DUFFY EDITOR | JIM (TROUBLE) SHOOTER ED.-IN-CHIEF

PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN, HAS FACED MORE CRISES IN HIS YOUTHFUL CAREER THAN MOST MEN ENCOUNTER IN A LIFETIME...

THAT BLAST HITTING MY EYES! I--I CAN'T SEE! I'M BLIND!!

BUT NONE MORE IMMEDIATELY DEVASTATING THAN THIS!

THE OPTI-BLASTS OF THE MASKED MARAUDER WILL INSURE THAT YOU NEVER INTERFERE WITH THE MAGGIA AGAIN, SPIDER-MAN!

MINE EYES HAVE SEEN THE GLORY

RICK PARKER LETTERS
KAREN RAINES COLORS

LG/97

OH, LORD--IT'S **TRUE!** I WAS **STARING** RIGHT AT THE MARAUDER WHEN HIS BLAST CAUGHT ME **FULL** IN THE **FACE!**

THERE WAS NO TIME TO **SHIELD** MY--

H-HE'S **STRIKING** AGAIN! I CAN'T SEE TO **DEFEND** MYSELF!

--AARGH!

WRITHE IN **HELPLESS AGONY,** YOU MEDDLING MISCREANT!

I HAVE AWAITED THIS MOMENT SINCE THE DAY YOU AND DAREDEVIL **FIRST** INTERFERED IN MY PLANS TO DOMINATE THE **MAGGIA!** *

* THE CLASSIC **DAREDEVIL** #'s 16 & 17--JO.

I HAVE SPENT MONTHS IN PRISON WORKSHOPS HEIGHTENING THE **POWER** OF MY **OPTI-BLASTS**--*

* SINCE **WEREWOLF BY NIGHT** # 43, TO BE EXACT--MJD.

--UNTIL THE **PARALYZING SHOCK** THEY DELIVER TO THE **OPTIC NERVE** IS NO LONGER TEMPORARY--

--BUT QUITE **PERMA-NENT!**

THUS, AS MY **GENIUS** HAS BROUGHT ME **CONTROL** OF THE MAGGIA--SO, TOO, HAS IT ALLOWED ME TO **TRIUMPH** OVER YOU, WALL-CRAWLER!

AND NOW FOR THE **COUP DE GRACE...**

REACTING TO A THOUGHT-COMMAND FROM THE MASKED MARAUDER, THE MOTIONLESS **TRI-MAN** LUMBERS TO OMINOUS **LIFE!**

SPIDER-SENSE REACTING LIKE **MAD!**

I'M ABOUT TO GET **CREAMED,** UNLESS...

PHOOM!

FROM THE SOUND OF THINGS, I'D SAY I LEAPED CLEAR JUST IN TIME-- AND IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION!

BUT I CAN'T DODGE BLINDLY FOR-EVER!

SOONER OR LATER THE TRI-MAN IS BOUND TO CONNECT, AND--OWWW!

I--I LANDED OFF BALANCE!

M-MY ANKLE--

--FEELS LIKE I'VE SPRAINED IT! HURTS! C-CAN'T ADHERE TO THE WALL!

OH, NO! THERE GOES MY SPIDER-SENSE AGAIN! IS IT THE MARAUDER...?

NO! IT'S THE TRI-MAN!!

THWOK!

BATTER HIM, MY CREATION! NEVER WERE YOU AS POWERFUL AS YOU ARE NOW!

WHAT DO YOU FEED HIM, MARAUDER? MULTIPLE VITAMINS? UNGHH!

ZTOK!

MOCKING, DOOMED, FOOL! YOUR FLIPPANCY ONLY HASTENS YOUR DOWNFALL!

U-UNHHH!

BUT, AT THAT MOMENT...

BOSS! THE COPS ARE COMIN'!

WHAT--?! IN MY DESIRE FOR RE-VENGE I HAVE JEAPORDIZED THE OPERATION!

THERE IS STILL TIME TO MAKE AMENDS, HOWEVER!

THE TRI-MAN HAS SMASHED OPEN THE SAFE DEPOSIT BOXES! TAKE EVERYTHING OUT TO THE WAITING GETAWAY VAN!

BUT WHAT ABOUT SPIDER-MAN?!

BLIND HE IS OF NO FURTHER CONSEQUENCE TO US! LEAVE HIM!

J-JUST KEEP TALKING, MASK-MUG! I DON'T NEED TO SEE YOU--

--TO FLIP A SPIDER-TRACER IN THE DIRECTION OF YOUR VOICE!

AND, OUTSIDE THE CITICORP BUILDING...

HOLD IT RIGHT... HOLY CROW-- THE MASKED MARAUDER!

IF HE'S BACK IN ACTION-- WE GOT TROUBLE!

MORE THAN YOU DREAM! GO, MY TRI-MAN--

--TAKE THEM!

NEW YORK'S FINEST STARE IN DISBELIEF AS THE HUGE ANDROID BEGINS TO CHANGE...

...FROM ITS HUMANOID SHAPE TO THAT OF A LIGHTNING-SWIFT BIRDROID ATTACK UNIT!

THE REST OF YOU-- COME!

VRROOARR!

FOR THE LUVVA MIKE-- LOOK OUT, MEN!

WHILE, IN THE RANSACKED SAFE DEPOSIT VAULT...

C-CAN'T SEE... CAN BARELY STAND ON MY BAD ANKLE!

BUT I CAN'T LET THE MARAUDER MASSACRE THE POLICE!

BUT IT IS EXTREMELY **UNLIKELY**, GIVEN OUR WEB-SPINNER'S PRESENT **CONDITION**, THAT HE WILL BE IN TIME TO DO **ANYTHING** ABOUT THE SITUATION OUTSIDE!

FOR GOD'S SAKE--KEEP YOUR **HEADS** DOWN!

VREEEEEE!

THE MARAUDER AND HIS MEN ARE ALL IN THE **VAN**, SERGEANT!

INTO YOUR **CARS**, MEN! **AFTER 'EM!**

I DON'T THINK THAT'LL BE **POSSIBLE**, SIR--

"--UNLESS THEY MAKE **PATROL CARS** WITH **WINGS!!**"

THE PATROLMAN'S **MEANING** BECOMES IMMEDIATELY **CLEAR!**

FROM WITHIN THE VAN A **HYDRAULIC HOIST** RISES SKY-WARD TOWARDS A WAITING **HELICOPTER**, AND RIDING A COLUMN OF **PRESSURIZED AIR**...

... THE **LEADER** OF THE **MAGGIA** MAKES GOOD HIS **ESCAPE!**

PUT UP YOUR **GUNS**, MEN! WE CAN'T **HIT** 'EM FROM HERE!

HE MADE **FOOLS** OF US-- **FOOLS!**

YEAH-- BUT WE AIN'T REPORTIN' BACK **EMPTY-HANDED!**

WE'VE **LOST** THE MARAUDER-- BUT WE'VE CAUGHT **SPIDER-MAN!**

H-HUH?!?

I-I DON'T BELIEVE IT! THE MARAUDER'S **GONE**... AND THIS COP IS GONNA RUN ME IN OUT OF **FRUSTRATION**!

DON'T MAKE A **MOVE** I DON'T **LIKE**, WALL-CRAWLER!

SORRY, OFFICER! WE'RE ON THE **SAME SIDE**--

--BUT I DON'T HAVE ALL NIGHT TO **CONVINCE** YOU OF THAT!

LOOK OUT FOR HIS **WEBBING**!

IT'S **COVERING** US LIKE A **NET**!

PTOW!

THAT'S WHAT I WANTED TO **HEAR**! SPINNING IT OUT **BLINDLY** I COULDN'T BE **SURE**...!

MAYBE BY THE TIME IT **DISSOLVES** THE COPS'LL FORGET ABOUT **ME**--

-- AND GET AFTER THE **REAL CRIMINAL**... THE **MARAUDER**! CAN'T **COUNT** ON THAT, THOUGH!

FEELS LIKE I'VE FALLEN INTO A **CANOPY**! G-GOT TO SHOOT MY WEBBING **UP-WARDS**!

THWIP!

"HOPE IT **ADHERES** TO **SOME-THING**!

THWAP!

THIS IS LIKE A BAD DREAM. I THOUGHT I'D FINALLY **CLEARED** MY NAME WITH THE POLICE,* AND NOW THEY'VE FOUND SOMETHING **ELSE** TO BLAME ME FOR.

AND UNTIL THEY PUT TWO AND TWO TOGETHER, THEY'LL BE HUNTING **ME** WHILE THE **MARAUDER** GOES **FREE!**

THANK GOD! MY WEBBING'S **CAUGHT** ON SOME-THING

BRAK!

PTOW!

I DON'T GET IT. HEADQUARTERS JUST SENT WORD DOWN THAT SPIDER-MAN **ISN'T** A CRIMINAL, AND NOW...

HE'S GETTING **AWAY!**

*SEE CURRENT ISSUES OF AMAZING SPIDER-MAN -- JO.

RELYING ON INSTINCT, SPIDER-MAN GAINS THE RELATIVE **SAFETY** OF A BUILDING CORNICE!

CRASH!

O-OWW! T-THIS IS **INSANE!** I'M **LOST** IN THIS...**DARKNESS!**

SPEOW!

I-I'VE GOT TO **STOP**-- THINK THIS **THROUGH!**

I'M **FINISHED** AS **SPIDER-MAN!** WHEN **PETER PARKER** SHOWS UP **SIGHTLESS**... MY **SECRET** WILL BE REVEALED!

THE **MARAUDER** DID THIS TO ME! WITH OR **WITHOUT** MY VISION, I'LL **GET** HIM-- I **SWEAR** IT!

BUT FIRST-- GOT TO **REST!** THEN FOLLOW SIGNAL FROM MY **SPIDER-TRACER**...!

WEAK, NUMB... AFRAID, SPIDEY LEANS BACK INTO THE **SHELTER** OF THE LEDGE. HE DOES NOT SEE THE **RISING** OF THE **MORNING SUN!**

WHILE, ELSEWHERE IN THE BIG APPLE, LIFE GOES ON AS USUAL...

...MORE OR LESS!

C. DEPT OF SANITATION

PETER WAS SUPPOSED TO CALL ME LAST NIGHT-- BUT HE NEVER DID!

I WONDER IF ANYTHING'S... SAY! ISN'T THAT MARY JANE WATSON?

I'VE FELT AWFUL EVER SINCE RUNNING INTO PETER AT THAT DISCO THE OTHER NIGHT!*

*SEE PPTSS#24-- JO.

BUT IT WAS MY DECISION TO COOL OUR RELATIONSHIP-- SO WHY SHOULD I BE UPSET AT SEEING HIM WITH ANOTHER WOMAN...?

OH-- EXCUSE ME!

WHY-- BETTY LEEDS! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

AT PETER'S APART-MENT? THE SAME THING YOU ARE, I WOULD IMAGINE!

WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN, MRS. LEEDS?

THAT WE'RE BOTH... FOND... OF PETER! I--I GUESS WE'RE COMPETITORS!

THEN YER WASTIN' YER TIME, LADIES! PARKER AIN'T BEEN HOME ALL NIGHT!

THAT'S ALRIGHT, MRS. MUGGINS-- I HAVE A KEY! I'LL LET MYSELF IN...!

HRRMPHH!

SO YOU AND PETEY ARE THAT TIGHT ALREADY, HUH?

N-NO, NOT REALLY... I MEAN-- YES, WE ARE!

YOU DON'T SOUND SO SURE, SWEETHEART, MAY-BE YOU'RE LETTING YOUR IMAGINATION FILL IN THE BLANKS IN REALITY!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN, MARY JANE!

CLICK

NO? DID PETER TELL YOU HE ASKED ME TO MARRY HIM?

AS MARY JANE'S KEY TURNS IN THE LOCK... DEATH-- IN THE GUISE OF CARRION-- AWAITS WITHIN PETER PARKER'S APARTMENT!

MEANWHILE, HIGH ABOVE THE CITY'S STREETS...

I-I'D HOPED REST WOULD IMPROVE THINGS-- BUT I'M STILL BLIND!

I'VE GOT TO GET HOME -- THINK THIS THROUGH! BUT I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHICH DIRECTION TO GO!

AND MY SPRAINED ANKLE ISN'T HELPING!

STILL CAN'T PUT ANY WEIGHT ON IT!

BUT THAT'S THE LEAST OF IT! I'VE GOTTA KEEP ON THE MOVE--KEEP GOING! I'M AFRAID IF I STOP, THE SHOCK WILL SET IN...

...THE SHOCK OF BEING SIGHT-LESS FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE!

EH? WHAT'S THAT FROM BELOW...?

SOUNDS LIKE A POLICE RADIO! MY WORST FEARS HAVE BEEN REALIZED! THEY ARE SEARCHING FOR ME!

Y'HEAR THAT, PARTNER? LET'S GO!

ALL POINTS ALERT FOR SPIDER-MAN-- SUSPECT IN THE ROBBERY OF THE CITICORP BUILDING EARLIER THIS MORNING...

LIBERTAD PARA PUERTO RICO

WREEEEEEEEEE!

WATCH THE INCREDIBLE HULK ON CBS-TV

POLICE

WOW! DO YOU THINK SPIDER-MAN'S A CRIMINAL?

WHO CARES? IT'S NOT MY PROBLEM.

THANKFULLY MISSING THOSE COMFORTING WORDS, OUR WEB-SLINGER INCHES HIS WAY ONWARDS!

WHILE, IN ANOTHER SECTION OF THE CITY...

DESPITE WHAT THE POLICE BULLETINS SAY--

AND, IN A TENEMENT APARTMENT IN THE SOUTH BRONX...

¡A CASA-- POR FIN*!

*SPANISH TO ENGLISH-- HOME, AT LAST!" --TRANSLATOR JO.

I BLEW A NIGHT OF STUDYING FOR HECTOR AYALA'S MID-TERMS--

SKREE

--BUT THE WHITE TIGER CLEANSED THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF A DRUG PUSHER!

I CAN'T ANSWER WHICH OF THE TWO IS MORE IMPORTANT--

--EDUCATION OR SELF-PRESER-VATION--

WREEEEEEEE

-- SPIDER-MAN IS NO MORE A CRIMINAL THAN I AM! IT'S TIME DARE-DEVIL DID SOME INVESTIGATING ON HIS OWN!

--BUT I KNOW WHICH MEANS MORE TO ME!

¡BASTA! I AM STARTING TO SOUND LIKE MY PHIL-OSOPHY PROFESSOR! I MUST BE ;HHMMM; TIRED...!

WELCOME HOME, MY BROTHER

EH?!

AWILDA!

SO YOU CUT YOUR CLASSES LAST NIGHT TO PLAY SUPER-HERO!

DO YOU WANT TO BREAK MAMA'S HEART, ESTUPIDO?

AND YOUR SCHOLAR-SHIP--IT MEANS NADA TO YOU? HECTOR, WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO GROW UP?!

AND SO WE TAKE OUR LEAVE OF THE WHITE TIGER AND HIS RATHER UN-USUAL DOMESTIC SITUATION--

--AND TURN OUR GAZE TO THE HALLOWED HALLS OF ACADEME...THE CENTRAL CAMPUS OF EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY!

ARE YOU AND HECTOR STILL SEEING EACH OTHER, HOLLY?

I'M AFRAID I PUT THE FREEZE ON THAT WHEN I COULDN'T ACCEPT HIS BEING THE WHITE TIGER, SHA SHAN!

HEY, LOVELY LADIES! WAIT UP!

MY--IF IT ISN'T MY LATE LUNCHEON DATE... FLASH THOMPSON!

AW, SHA SHAN HONEY--I'M SORRY! I WAS JUST LOOKIN' FOR PETE! YOU SEEN HIM?

NOPE. ISN'T HE AWFUL LATE FOR CLASS BY NOW?

YOU BET! BOY, IF HE WANTS TO MAKE UP GYM AND GET INTO GRAD SCHOOL--

--HE SURE HAS A FUNNY WAY OF GOIN' ABOUT IT! AH, LET'S EAT! PETE'S A BIG BOY NOW--

"-- HE CAN TAKE CARE OF HIMSELF!"

S-SOUNDS OF TRAFFIC BELOW!

I-I MUST BE OVER A STREET--

-- ON A LEDGE... OR THE ROOF OF A BUILDING!

C-CAN'T TELL ANYTHING FROM THE NOISE, AND THE BUILDINGS ALL FEEL EXACTLY THE SAME!

I DON'T KNOW WHERE I AM!!

MY SPIDER-SENSE IS NO HELP! IT'S NOT PICKING UP ANY EMANATIONS FROM MY SPIDER-TRACER, WHICH MEANS THE MARAUDER'S OUT OF RANGE!

OTHER THAN THAT, IT ONLY CHIMES IN WHEN THERE'S--

--DANGER!!

HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, WALL-CRAWLER! I WANT TO TALK TO YOU!

TH-THERE IT GOES! I MUST BE UNDER ATTACK--!

N-NO! THAT'S NOT WHAT SET IT OFF! I-I'VE STEPPED BACK OFF THE LEDGE!

WHAT IN BLAZES--?!

I-I'M FALLING!!

MY RADAR SENSE REVEALS THAT SPIDER-MAN IS NO LONGER ON THE LEDGE.! BUT WHY DID HE LEAP AWAY FROM ME?

HIS HEART'S POUNDING LIKE A TRIP-HAMMER... AS IF HE WERE SCARED.!

BUT WHY DOESN'T HE JUST USE HIS WEBBING TO SAVE HIMSELF?

THWIP!

CAN'T BE FAR DOWN TO THE STREET.! GOD-- IF ONLY I COULD SEE TO AIM MY WEB-SHOOTERS.

BUT LONG EXPERIENCE ISN'T EASILY NEGATED-- NOT EVEN BY BLINDNESS.! SPIDER-MAN'S WEBLINE FORTUITOUSLY STRIKES A LEDGE ABOVE...

...AND ADHERES, YANKING THE UNPREPARED SUPER-HERO ABOUT LIKE A PUPPET WHOSE STRINGS HAVE BEEN DRAWN UP SHORT.!

UNGHH!

BLIND!

BUT THE SUDDEN JARRING WEIGHT ALSO HAS ITS EFFECT ON THE CRUMBLING CORNICE.!

WHILE, ON THE LEDGE ABOVE...

IT SOUNDS *INSANE,* BUT SPIDER-MAN'S *FALLING--*

--TO HIS *DEATH!*

I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GONE *WRONG--*

--ESPECIALLY SINCE MY *RADAR SENSES* REVEAL HIM TO BE AS *POWERFUL* AS EVER--

--BUT MAYBE I'D BETTER *POSTPONE* THE PROGNOSTICATION UNTIL THE WEB-SLINGER'S *SAFE!*

SPIDER-MAN-- REACH OUT YOUR *HAND!*

HUH? *WHO--?!*

BLAST IT, MAN--I'M COMING TO *RESCUE* YOU!

BUT YOU MUST *REACH OUT* TO ME!

HE'S REACHING THE *WRONG WAY!* GOT TO *ACCELERATE* MY *SWING--*

--AND SNATCH HIM BEFORE HE MAKES A PERMANENT IMPRESSION ON THE SIDEWALK!

THE SAVE EXECUTED BY THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR IS BREATHTAKINGLY FLAWLESS--

HOTEL BLAIR

LYCEUM THEATRE

ACE AIR

SALE

DAILY BUGLE

--AND, BANKING ON THE MOMENTUM OF HIS SWING--

JUST HOLD ON TIGHT, MISTER!

--DAREDEVIL ARCS SKYWARD, HIS UNCANNY RADAR SENSES ANALYZING THE UPDRAFTS AND WIND CURRENTS AND UNERRINGLY GUIDING HIM TO AN ACCESIBLE ROOFTOP!

AND, SECONDS LATER...

YOU'RE DAREDEVIL-- YOU MUST BE!

WHAT GAVE ME AWAY? MY CRIMSON COSTUME WITH THE DOUBLE 'D' ON THE CHEST--

--OR MY SUNNY PERSONALITY?

N-NO, IT-- IT WAS YOUR VOICE! I-I RECOGNIZED IT!

MY VOI...? I DON'T GET IT! LOOK, WALL-CRAWLER--!

BUT, IN MOUNTING PANIC, SPIDER-MAN BACKS AWAY FROM HIS COSTUMED BENEFACTOR--

--WHEN SUDDENLY HIS BAD ANKLE TRIPS HIM INTO SOME MAKESHIFT CAGES BY AN URBAN PIGEON FANCIER CONSTRUCTED ON THE ROOF!

CRASH!

AND, DAREDEVIL, TRYING TO MAKE SOME SENSE OF THE MEANINGLESS CACAPHONY OF SOUND--

--IS FINALLY FORCED TO SAY...

HEY, FELLA! WHAT IN GOD'S NAME IS WRONG??

WHAT'S THE MATTER, DARE-DEVIL-- HAVEN'T YOU EVER HEARD THE ONE ABOUT THE S-SIGHTLESS SUPER-HERO?

YOU'RE BLIND?!

I-I THOUGHT IT WAS OBVIOUS! S-SOME JOKE, HUH?!

DAREDEVIL CANNOT THINK OF ANYTHING TO SAY!

NEXT ISSUE: IN SEARCH OF THE MASKED MARAUDER WITH--

THE BLIND LEADING THE BLIND!

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PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN®

I SENSE DEADLY DANGER, DAREDEVIL-- BUT I CAN'T SEE IT! I'M BLIND!

MARVEL'S TV SENSATION!

COCKRUM • AM

THE BLIND LEADING THE BLIND!

While attending a demonstration in radiology, student PETER PARKER was bitten by a spider which had accidentally been exposed to RADIOACTIVE RAYS. Through a miracle of science, Peter soon found that he had GAINED the arachnid's powers...and had, in effect, become a human spider...

Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN!®

BILL MANTLO WRITER * FRANK MILLER GUEST-PENCILER * FRANK SPRINGER INKER * MARY JO DUFFY EDITOR-PRO-TEM * JAMES SHOOTER EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN IS BLIND!
RENDERED SIGHTLESS BY THE MASKED MARAUDER, ACCUSED OF COMPLICITY AND HUNTED BY THE POLICE--
--SPIDEY FLED INTO THE NIGHT WHERE, COWERING IN DARKNESS, HE WAS DISCOVERED BY THE ONE MAN WHO CAN TRULY UNDERSTAND HIS ANGUISH--ONE WHO IS BLIND, THOUGH FEW INDEED KNOW IT--THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR...
THE BLIND LEADING THE BLIND
D-DARE-DEVIL, WHERE--?
OVER HERE, WALLCRAWLER! CAN YOU SWING ACROSS THE STREET?
DAREDEVIL
DENISE WOHL LETTERS
BOB SHAREN COLORS
LG'222

I-I THINK SO! J-JUST *GUIDE* ME, HUH?

--AND TRIGGER YOUR *WEB SHOOTER* WHILE I *AIM* FOR YOU!

THWAP!

SURE THING, FELLA! *STEADY* YOURSELF BESIDE ME--

THWIP!

*GAUGING THE SHOT WITH HIS UNCANNY HYPERSENSES, DAREDEVIL **HEARS** THE WEB-LINE ADHERE TO THE DISTANT ROOFTOP!*

MY WEB'S *SECURE*, RIGHT?

I MAY BE *BLIND* --BUT I'M NOT *HELPLESS*!

NO! I SHOULD'VE KNOWN HE'D TRY THAT!

KOAK!

HE CAN'T *STAND* BEING HANDICAPPED! HE'S GOT TO PROVE TO HIMSELF THAT HE CAN *COPE!* BUT HE'S SWINGING IN TOO *LOW* AN ARC!

HUH? WHAT--?!

SPIDEY-- *PULL UP!*

SKRAK!

U-UNHH!

OH, LORD! HE'S *FALLING!*

TAK!

AND FROM THE WILD BEATING OF HIS *HEART*, HE'S STARTING TO *PANIC!*

GOT TO PUSH OFF-- DROP *FASTER* THAN SPIDEY--

WH-WHAT DO I *D-DO*? WH-WHICH WAY IS *UP*?!

CAN'T COUNT ON HIM TO HELP HIMSELF UNTIL THE *HYSTERIA* PASSES!

I'VE GOT TO GET *BELOW* HIM! AH, *WIND* RUSHING PAST A... *FLAGPOLE!* PERFECT!

SUB

--AND *MAKE* THE CATCH!

GOT YOU, FELLA! NOW *HANG* TIGHT!

SPRONGG!

--WHILE I PUT SOME SPACE BETWEEN US AND THE STREET!

N-NO!

HEY, WHAT GIVES?

SMEK

I WON'T TAKE ANYMORE! I'D RATHER BE DEAD THAN...

I SHOULD HAVE EXPECTED THIS! HE'S STARTING TO COME APART--

NO MORE! I'M BLIND --MY ANKLE SPRAINED SO BAD I CAN HARDLY STAND--!*

* SEE LAST ISH -- JO.

--LASHING OUT AT ME AS HIS CHURNING GUTS TEAR HIM INSIDE-OUT!

I COULD DODGE HIS BLOWS UNTIL HE EXHAUSTS HIMSELF!

SPIDER-MAN, LISTEN TO ME! MAYBE THERE'S A CURE--!

NO! THE MARAUDER SAID THE EFFECTS OF HIS OPTI-BLAST WERE PERMANENT!

KLANG

--BUT THAT'S NOT GOING TO BRING HIM TO GRIPS WITH HIS BLINDNESS!

I'M FINISHED-- DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND THAT?!

WHUMPH!

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN IS FINISHED!

LORD, I'D FORGOTTEN HOW STRONG HE IS!

SPAKOW!

--THE CRACK-UP!

I'M NO GOOD TO ANYONE-- NOW--NOT TO MYSELF ...NOT TO ANYONE!

--JOKE...

IT'S OVER--BUT FOR HOW LONG? I CAN'T HANDLE HIM ALONE!

I'VE GOT TO GET HELP!

I CAN HEAR HIS HEART RACING!

HERE IT COMES--

I'M A JOKE! A SICK, PITIFUL-- PATHETIC--

SPIDEY-- I'VE GOT AN IDEA! COME WITH ME, HUH?

SURE-- WHY NOT? WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

SHORTLY, IN THE MANHATTAN APARTMENT OF ATTORNEY MATT MURDOCK...

I TOOK A RISK BRINGING HIM HERE! EVEN BLIND HE MIGHT INADVERTENTLY DISCOVER A CLUE TO MY SECRET IDENTITY!

BUT, I CAN IMAGINE WHAT HE'S GOING THROUGH...!

AS DAREDEVIL'S HYPERSENSITIVE FINGERTIPS "READ" THE YELLOW PAGES, HIS MIND RACES BACK...

LOOK OUT!

SKREECH!

...TO THAT DAY MANY YEARS AGO-- THE DAY OF THE ACCIDENT!

ROBBED OF HIS SIGHT BY A BLOW FROM A METAL CANNISTER BEARING RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS, YOUNG MATT MURDOCK FOUND HIS OTHER SENSES MYSTERIOUSLY HEIGHTENED!*

*SEE THE CLASSIC LEE-EVERETT DAREDEVIL #1--JO.

MAKING USE OF HIS NEW-FOUND POWER AND AGILITY, MATT AVENGED THE MURDER OF HIS FATHER AND EMBARKED UPON A DUAL CAREER--AS A TALENTED LAWYER...

...AND AS THE COSTUMED ADVENTURER CALLED..

--DAREDEVIL, THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!

HELLO, DR. ORLOCK? YES, THIS IS DAREDEVIL.

I HAVE A PATIENT FOR YOU!

SECONDS LATER, IN THE PARK AVENUE OFFICES OF DR. HENRY ORLOCK, OPTHAMOLOGIST...

ALFRED MANETTI M.D.

NURSE, CANCEL MY AFTERNOON APPOINTMENTS--

--WE'RE EXPECTING A VERY UNUSUAL PATIENT!

EOR STMUDB QRDENVOL BLTMZAGH MYZPTLKD

AND DR. ORLOCK SITS DOWN... TO WAIT!

WHILE... ORLOCK'S A GOOD MAN A--ER--FRIEND OF MINE RECOMMENDED!

IF ANYONE CAN FIND A CURE--HE CAN!

SPIDER-MAN CAN ONLY NOD HELPLESSLY!

WHILE ON THE STOOP OF PETER PARKER'S CHELSEA APARTMENT...

MARY JANE, I'M ALMOST GLAD PETER WASN'T HOME, AND WE HAD THIS CHANCE TO TALK!*

ME, TOO, BETTY! I'M SORRY I MADE THAT CRACK ABOUT PETEY ASKING ME TO MARRY HIM!

HE DID--AND I TURNED HIM DOWN... NOT BECAUSE I DIDN'T LOVE HIM--BUT BECAUSE I'M NOT READY FOR MARRIAGE!

*SEE LAST ISSUE--JO.

I WISH I'D HAD THAT KIND OF MATURITY WHEN NED ASKED ME TO MARRY HIM --INSTEAD OF JUMPING AT THE SECURITY!

WELL, YOU SEEM TO HAVE SURVIVED! LISTEN, JUST BECAUSE WE'RE SEEING THE SAME GUY DOESN'T MEAN WE CAN'T BE CIVIL TO EACH OTHER!

MORE THAN JUST CIVIL, MJ--WE CAN BE FRIENDS!

SOLID! S'LONG ...FRIEND!

AND, WHEN THE LADIES HAVE LEFT...

SHEESH! IT AIN'T BAD ENOUGH BEIN' PARKER'S LAND-LADY--

--NOW I GOTTA OVERHEAR THE DETAILS OF HIS LOVELIFE!

THUMP!

SKRAK!

CRACK

I DON'T GET IT! I RENT TA WEIRDOS SOMETIMES--

--BUT THEM SOUNDS IS COMIN' FROM PARKER'S APARTMENT--

--AN' ACCORDIN' TA HIS GIRL-FRIENDS, HE AIN'T HOME!

B-BUT HIS DOOR'S OPEN!

TH-THIS IS ONE A' THEM TIMES I W-WISH MY BARNEY WAS HOME!

FEARFULLY, MRS MUGGINS PEEKS IN PETER'S DOORWAY.

AND WITNESSES A SCENE OF MINDLESS CARNAGE--

--DESTRUCTION--

...AND... TERROR

THE DEAD WALK PARKER

EEEEEEEEEEEE

TRADEMARKS ALL THE MALEVOLENT... CARRION!

SOON, C PARKER, YOU MUST RETURN--

AND I WILL BE WAITING!

AND TREADING THIN AIR, THE CADAVEROUS VILLAIN DEPARTS!

MANY HOURS LATER...

I DON'T UNDERSTAND! THEY SHOULD HAVE BEEN HERE BY NOW!

DOCTOR ORLOCK-- THEY ARE HERE!

SORRY IT TOOK US SO LONG, SIR! I THOUGHT IT BEST TO WAIT 'TIL AFTER NIGHTFALL!

DAREDEVIL -- HELPING SPIDER-MAN?! B-BUT... THAT CITICORP ROBBERY! THE POLICE!

--ARE OFTEN MIS-TAKEN NURSE WILLS--

--AND WE WILL RESPECT THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF OUR... PATIENT!

THANKS, DOC! AS I EXPLAINED ON THE PHONE...

IT'S ALRIGHT, DD! LET ME TELL HIM!

I WAS HIT BY SOMETHING CALLED AN OPTI-BLAST, DOC-- A RAY USED TO PARA-LYZE THE OPTIC NERVE.

I--I NEED TO KNOW... IS THE PARALYSIS TEMPORARY-- OR WILL I BE BLIND FOREVER?!

YOU SOUND AS IF YOU'VE HAD SCIEN-TIFIC TRAINING, MY BOY! IF SO, YOU ARE AWARE OF THE RISKS THAT SUCH A SEVERE NEURO-SHOCK ENTAILS!

STILL, THE OPTIC FIBERS SEEM TO BE WHOLE... AND SEEM TO BE RECUPERATING WITH ASTONISHING SPEED!

SPIDER-MAN'S EXTRAORDINARY PHYSIOLOGY COULD ACCOUNT FOR THAT...!

BUT WILL IT BE A COMPLETE RECOVERY??

THAT I CAN'T SAY, SPIDER-MAN! GIVEN TIME AND REST...

Y'HEAR THAT, FELLA? YOU'VE GOT A GOOD CHANCE AT...

DAREDEVIL--YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND!

I MAY SEE AGAIN--
I MAY NOT... AND WHILE I "REST" THE MASKED MARAUDER'S GETTING READY TO STRIKE!

THAT ROBBERY AT THE CITICORP CENTER WAS ONLY PART OF A MASTER PLAN!

OH! BUT I'M NOT DONE WITH YOUR ANKLE.

HANG MY ANKLE! I'VE GOT A SPIDER TRACER ON THE MARAUDER!

I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN FIND HIM!

WHRUMP!

A-AND I CAN'T EVEN SEE!

THE MARAUDER'S GOT THE ENTIRE MAGGIA BEHIND HIM! HE WOULDN'T NEED CASH UNLESS HE WAS PLANNING SOMETHING BIG!

SOMETHING TERRIFYING!

AND THERE'S NOT A BLASTED THING I CAN DO TO STOP HIM!

SPIDER-MAN--TAKE IT EASY! YOU'RE NOT ALONE FELLA--WE'RE IN THIS TOGETHER!

TRUST ME, MAN, TRUST ME!

KRAM!

DAREDEVIL--??

SECONDS LATER, WHEN SPIDER-MAN HAS REGAINED CONTROL OF HIMSELF...

DAREDEVIL, IF HE SHOULD SNAP AGAIN--?

HE UNDERSTANDS HIS SITUATION, DOC! HE'S BEEN THROUGH A LOT TONIGHT--BUT I THINK HE'S ALRIGHT NOW!

I HOPE SO!

DAREDEVIL--WHICH WAY TO THE ROOF?

MOMENTS LATER, HIGH ABOVE PARK AVENUE...

I'VE GOT TO TREAD CAREFULLY NOW! IF I APPEAR AT ALL CONDE-SCENDING IT COULD TRIGGER ANOTHER OUTBURST!

AND, ON THE TRAIL OF A VILLAIN AS COLD-BLOODED AS THE MASKED MARAUDER, THAT COULD VERY WELL PROVE FATAL!

WELL, WHAT NOW, WEBHEAD? YOU'RE CALLING THE SHOTS!

ALL RIGHT-- MY SPIDER-TRACER EMITS A RADIO SIGNAL! I MANAGED TO ATTACH ONE TO THE MARAUDER'S CAPE!

AND HOW DO WE HOME IN ON ITS SIGNAL?

I'VE GOT CERTAIN... SENSES... BEYOND THE ORDINARY WHICH CAN DETECT THE TRACER'S BEAM!

DD, THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE I WANT YOU TO KNOW-- IN CASE ANYTHING HAPPENS TO ME!

I--I HID MY FACE FROM YOU IN THE DOC'S OFFICE! BUT NOW--!

SPIDER-MAN REACHES FOR HIS MASK... THEN HESITATES!

I--I CAN'T DO IT!

I-IF I... IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO ME, THE NEWSPAPERS WILL IDENTIFY ME!

THWIP

THWIT THWIT

LET'S JUST GO, HUH?

WHOA! HOLD UP, WALL-CRAWLER!

YOU'RE GETTING MORBID AGAIN! SNAP OUT OF IT--

--OR YOU'RE LIABLE TO GET US BOTH KILLED!

THE MARAUDER'D HAVE A HECKUVA LAUGH IF YOU DIED WALKING OFF A ROOF!

HESITANTLY, SPIDER-MAN ACCEPTS DAREDEVIL'S ADVICE...

...AS MENTION OF THE MASKED MARAUDER REMINDS HIM THAT THERE IS FAR MORE THAN JUST HIS OWN LIFE AT STAKE!

HURRY, YOU MINDLESS MAGGOTS! WE MUST BE READY BY THE MOMENT OF TRANSMISSION!

IF YOU HADN'T CREATED THE TRI-MAN OUT OF A NEARLY IMPENE-TRABLE ALLOY...!

STILL, WE'RE ALMOST DONE!

EXCELLENT. WITH HIS DEADLY PAYLOAD SEALED IN HIS ANDROID BODY--

--MY TRI-MAN HAS BECOME THE PERFECT WEAPON WITH WHICH TO BLACKMAIL THE GOOD CITY FATHERS OF NEW YORK!

READY THE TRANS-MITTER FOR MY HISTORY-MAKING BROAD-CAST!

WHILE, UNSEEN, A SPIDER-TRACER--

--EMITS A SUB-SONIC SIGNAL DETECTED BY ITS CREATOR... THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN!

PICKING UP ANYTHING YET!

NOT YE--! WAIT!!

WE'RE HEADING TOWARDS MIDTOWN--NEAR SIXTH AVENUE!

CAN'T LET ON THAT MY RADAR SENSES HAVE ALSO PICKED UP ON HIS TRACER! MUSN'T UNDER-MINE HIS RE-VIVING CON-FIDENCE!

YES! IN THIS DIRECTION! WHERE--?

IT'S STRONGER THIS WAY, DD!

WE'VE GOT TO CROSS THE *AVENUE OF THE AMERICAS*, HERE! HOW ABOUT IF WE USE YOUR *WEB-LINE*?

FINE! CARE TO DO THE *HONORS*, HORNHEAD?

MY *PLEASURE*, WEBHEAD!

THWIPP!

THE IMPOSSIBLY THIN *WEB-LINE* WHISKS ACROSS THE AVENUE.

THEN, TRUSTING IN THE LINE'S PROVEN *TENSILE STRENGTH*, THE MAN CALLED *DAREDEVIL* USES IT AS A *SPRINGBOARD* AS HE CLEAVES THE AIR TOWARDS A DISTANT ROOFTOP --

--ONLY TO BE *MET* BY ONE WHOSE *SPIDER-POWERED* MUSCLES ENABLE HIM TO EFFORTLESSLY *LEAP* THE DIZZY DISTANCE.

NOT *BAD*, HUH-- FOR A *BLIND* MAN?!

NO, NOT BAD AT *ALL*!

AND, IN A MUTUAL *DARKNESS* DEEPER THAN THE NIGHT...

...TWO *LONERS* CONTINUE TO SEARCH TOGETHER FOR THE HIDDEN *DANGER* THAT LURKS IN THE SLEEPING CITY!

SOON...

WE'RE CLOSE, HORNHEAD --REAL CLOSE!

SWEEPING THE SKY-LINE WITH HIS UNCANNY RADAR SENSE...

...THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR IS INUNDATED WITH LITERALLY THOU-SANDS OF BROAD-CAST SIGNALS!

GOT TO NARROW MY FOCUS! SPIDER-MAN'S ATTUNED TO THE TRACER SIGNAL BECAUSE OF HIS SPIDER-SENSE--

--BUT I'VE GOT TO SORT IT OUT FROM AMONGST ALL THE REST!

THERE! A SKYSCRAPER --WITH POWER ONLY ON UPPER FLOORS-- CONSTRUCTION EQUIP-MENT SCATTERED AROUND THE SIDEWALK BELOW!

THAT'S THE ONE-- THAT UNFINISHED BUILDING ON 47th STREET! THE PENT-HOUSE FLOORS ARE FILLED WITH MEN AND MACHINES!

AT THIS TIME OF NIGHT, IT'S GOT TO BE THE MARAUDER AND HIS MAGGIA GOONS!

OKAY, MY JOB'S DONE! GO GET 'EM, DD!

I WOULDN'T BE MUCH USE IN A FIGHT!

DROP THE SOB-SISTER ROUTINE, FELLA!

I'VE SAID THIS BEFORE-- I'LL SAY IT AGAIN!

H-HEY--?!

KDJK

WE'RE IN THIS TOGETHER!

I ONLY HOPE WE COME OUT OF IT THAT WAY!

WHILE, IN THE **PENTHOUSE** ON 47th STREET...

GOOD EVENING, MR. **MAYOR** -- I AM THE **MASKED MARAUDER**, LEADER OF THE **MAGGIA**!

I--AH -- SUPPOSE YOU HAVE SOME EARTH-SHATTERING **REASON** TO CONTACT ME IN THE MIDST OF EXTREMELY SENSITIVE **UNION NEGOTIATING**, MARAUDER...?

FOOL! WHAT ARE MERE **LABOR DISPUTES** COMPARED WITH--

--**THIS**?! YOU ARE LOOKING AT MY **TRI-MAN**, MR. MAYOR.

TAP TAP

TRI AS IN **THREE BEINGS** IN **ONE**!

IN HIS HUMANOID AND BIRD **FORMS** HE SUCCESSFULLY PLUNDERED THE **CITICORP CENTER** YESTERDAY EVENING OBTAINING THE **CASH** I NEEDED--

--TO PURCHASE THE **BRAIN-POWER** OF A FAMOUS **NU-CLEAR PHYCISIST** CURRENTLY LIVING... **ABROAD**!

AND, WITH HIS ASSISTANCE, A **WARHEAD** WAS IMPLANTED IN MY CREATION--

--ARMED WITH A PAYLOAD OF **PLUTONIUM** WHICH MY MEN HIJACKED LAST WEEK IN NEW JERSEY! *

* SEE PPTSS #24 -- JO.

THUS, IN ITS **THIRD INCAR-NATION**, MY TRI-MAN HAS BECOME...

...**A BOMBDROID**! CAPABLE OF LEVELLING THE **FINANCIAL CAPITOL OF THE WORLD** IN ONE SEARING **ATOMIC EXPLOSION** WHICH WILL MAKE HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI **PALE** BY COMPARISON!

AND **ALL** I ASK IS TO **PREVENT** IT-- IS THAT **NEW YORK** BE TURNED OVER TO THE **MAGGIA**... **IMMEDIATELY**!

BUT, EVEN AS THE MAYOR GASPS IN HOOROR...

THAT'S WHAT I *LIKE* ABOUT YOU, MARAUDER --YOU *AIM* FOR THE *SKIES!*

SKRASH!

CHOK!

DAREDEVIL?! HERE?!!

SURE! DID YOU EXPECT ME TO *STAY AWAY* ONCE I LEARNED FROM *SPIDER-MAN--*

KTANG

--THAT *YOU* WERE UP TO YOUR *OLD TRICKS?*

KLUGGGGG

WHUNFF!

I'M *SHOCKED!* WE KNOW EACH OTHER BETTER THAN THAT!

TOO WELL, YOU CRIMSON CRETIN! IT WILL GIVE ME GREAT *PLEASURE* TO DESTROY YOU--

--IN THE *SAME IN-STANT* THAT I *CREMATE* THE CITY OF NEW YORK!

VROOSH!

YOU *MADMAN!* LAUNCH THE *TRI-MAN* AND YOU DOOM *YOURSELF* AS WELL!

NO CHANCE, HERO! THE BOSS HAS AN *ESCAPE ROUTE* ALL SET! A *TELEPORTER!*

AND HIS PLANS DON'T CALL FOR AN *EXTRA PASSENGER!*

GOOD GOD! THE MARAUDER'S JUST *INSANE* ENOUGH TO PULL THIS *OFF!*

WROOSHH!

I'VE GOT TO *STOP* HIM--BUT THE *BOMB-DROID* IS ALREADY ROCKETING TOWARDS ME!

BUT, IF I CAN'T SHAKE THESE *GOONS* IN TIME...?

VROOSHHH!

SPIDER-MAN! ON THE *WINDOW* OUTSIDE! HE'S OUR *ONLY* CHANCE!

SPIDER-SENSE TING-LING! SOMETHING'S ABOUT TO *HAPPEN!* BUT--?

AND HEAVEN *HELP* US-- HE STILL CAN'T *SEE!!*

KRASH!

OBOY!

HIGH OVER A *DOOMED CITY,* SPIDER-MAN BEGINS A SLOW SPIRALLING *FALL* TO HIS *DEATH!*

NEXT:

ASHES TO ASHES!

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PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN®

MARVEL'S TV SENSATION!

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YOUR SPIDER-POWERS CAN'T SAVE YOU FROM CARRION, PARKER!

pollard & MILGROM

While attending a demonstration in radiology, student PETER PARKER was bitten by a spider which had accidentally been exposed to RADIOACTIVE RAYS. Through a miracle of science, Peter soon found that he had GAINED the arachnid's powers...and had, in effect, become a human spider...

STAN LEE PRESENTS: THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN!®

HIGH ABOVE NEW YORK, A SIGHTLESS SPIDER-MAN BEGINS A SLOW SPIRALLING FALL TO HIS DEATH--

KRASH!

VROOARR

OBOY!!

--WHILE THE MASKED MARAUDER'S BOMBDROID CARRIES ITS PLUTONIUM PAYLOAD OVER THE DOOMED CITY!

DAREDEVIL MUST NOT'VE BEEN ABLE TO STOP THE MARAUDER FROM LAUNCHING THE BIRDROID! I DON'T KNOW THE GAME PLAN--

--BUT I'M BETTING IT'S IMPORTANT THAT METAL MENACE BE STOPPED!

AND BLIND OR NOT--STOP IT I WILL!

ALSO FEATURING: THE CADAVEROUS CARRION!!

...AND STORMS!

LG285

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MARIO SEN / COLORIST

ALLEN MILGROM / EDITOR

JIM SHOOTER / EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

AND...

A COMBINATION OF GOOD HEARING AND SPIDER-SENSE GUIDED MY SHOT!

VROOSH!

--BUT IT'S TAKING ME WITH IT!

I'VE SNAGGED THE BIRDROID--

MEANWHILE, IN THE 47th STREET PENT-HOUSE OF THE MASKED MARAUDER...

I'VE GOT MY HANDS FULL WITH THESE MAGGIA GOONS!

I CAN'T HELP SPIDER-MAN--

--OR REACH THE MARAUDER TO FORCE HIM TO DEACTIVATE HIS BOMBDROID--

TAK

TAK

TIK

FIGHT ON, DAREDEVIL --NOT THAT IT MATTERS! IF THE MAYOR DOES NOT CONCEDE TOTAL CON-TROL OF NEW YORK TO THE MAGGIA--

--MY BOMBDROID WILL BLOW THE BIG APPLE OFF THE MAP!

AND IN THE MAYORS OFFICE...

DAREDEVIL'S BEING HELD AT BAY!

THE MARAUDER CAN TELE-PORT HIMSELF TO SAFETY-- BUT WHAT DO WE DO ABOUT 8 MILLION NEW YORKERS, MR. MAYOR??

I...I DON'T KNOW--

"--B-BUT IF DAREDEVIL FAILS TO STOP HIM--THAT QUESTION MIGHT WELL BECOME ACADEMIC."

THE MAGGIA GOONS ARE BREAKING AWAY FROM ME!

MY RADAR SENSE REVEALS THEM RE-GROUPING AT THE MARAUDER'S SIGNAL!

--INTO A FIRING SQUAD!

FINISH HIM! OBTAIN FOR ME MY LONG-SOUGHT REVENGE!

WITH PLEASURE, BOSS--IF IT'LL GET US OUT OF HERE FASTER!

GOT TO TIME THIS PERFECTLY --CATCH THEM BY SURPRISE-- GET THEM TO FOLLOW MY LEAP--

--SO THAT THEY RAKE THE WALL BEHIND ME WITH THEIR RIFLE-FIRE!

SPTANG!

SPAK!

SPAK!

SPRAK!

SO THAT IT'S ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE FOR THEM TO MISS--

--THE CONDUIT BOX WHICH CONTROLS THE PENTHOUSE'S LIGHTS!

FZZZZZTT

THE ENTIRE FLOOR IS INSTANTANEOUSLY PLUNGED INTO UTTER DARKNESS!

ENVELOPED IN SHADOW, GUIDED BY HIS UNCANNY RADAR SENSES, THE SIGHTLESS MAN WITHOUT FEAR IS RIGHT AT HOME IN THE ELEMENT HE KNOWS BEST!

CHUDD

NGG

EHOK

KLUGG

THAT'S THE LAST OF YOUR FLUNKIES, MARAUDER...

DAREDEVIL'S MASK MUST BE EQUIPPED--AS MINE IS--WITH INFRARED LENSES, ENABLING HIM TO SEE IN THE DARK! BUT IF HE THINKS ME BLIND... HELPLESS... AT HIS MERCY--

--HOW LITTLE HE HAS LEARNED OF MY POWER OVER THE YEARS!

SHKROW!

YEEAGGHH!!

THE IMPACT OF MY EYE-BLASTS IS PHYSICAL AS WELL AS OPTICAL, YOU COSTUMED CRETIN!

WHILE, HEADING NORTHWARD THROUGH THE NIGHT--ENSHROUDED SKIES ABOVE SIXTH AVENUE...

DON'T KNOW HOW HIGH UP WE ARE! I'VE GOT TO REEL MYSELF IN--

--BEFORE THE BIRDROID SCRAPES ME OFF AGAINST A SKYSCRAPER.

AND, ONCE ABOARD THE BIRDROID'S GLEAMING BACK...

GOT TO USE MY SPIDER-SENSE AS I'VE NEVER USED IT BEFORE--

--TO DETECT THE BIRDROID'S POWER SOURCE!

HIS REMAINING SENSES STRAINING TO THE UTMOST, SPIDER-MAN DISCOVERS MORE THAN HE'D BARGAINED FOR!

TIK TIK TIK

G-GOD--THE BIRDROID'S TICKING!! IT--IT'S A BOMB!

AN H-BOMB TO BE EXACT!

WHILE...

MARAUDER-- IN THE NAME OF HUMANITY ...STOP YOUR BOMBDROID!

WHY, DAREDEVIL? WHAT'S HUMANITY EVER DONE FOR ME?!

SPAK

GOT TO KEEP HIM OCCUPIED --MAKE HIM THINK HIS OPTI-BLASTS HAVE BLINDED ME--

--WHILE I BOUNCE MY BILLY CLUB OFF THE INSTRUMENT BANK BEHIND HIM!

STAK

TAK

YOU SHOULD BE GRATEFUL TO ME, YOU CRIMSON CLOWN!

WITH YOUR OPTIC NERVES DESTROYED--YOU WON'T EVEN WITNESS YOUR OWN DEMISE!

TRAKAM!

AAAGGHHH!

IT WORKED--HE DROPPED THE BOMB-DROID'S CONTROL BOX! NOW TO--!

UNGGH!

SMOK!

YOU INTERFERING, INSUFFERABLE IDIOT!

KRAM

I'VE BORNE THE FINAL INDIGNITY FROM YOU, DAREDEVIL!

ONCE I PRESS THIS BUTTON--THE BOMBDROID WILL BE ARMED AND SET TO EXPLODE UPON IMPACT!

BEEP BEEP BEEP BE

--AND HE MEANS TO MAKE THE MOST OF IT!

C-CARELESS, DD--YOU LET THE MARAUDER CATCH YOU OFF GUARD--

WHUNFF!

NOTHING CAN STOP IT-- NOTHING!

FARNUM... DON'T BE A FOOL--!

BUT THE MARAUDER MERELY LAUGHS SHRILLY..

--AS HIS MOMENT OF MAD TRIUMPH COMES EVER CLOSER!

VREEEEEEEEEEEEEEE

THE BIRDROID'S DOING A NOSEDIVE!

I'VE GOT TO HANG ON--

--AND GET TO THE POWER SOURCE--

--BEFORE THE INEVITABLE HAPPENS!

SPIDER-MAN'S INCREDIBLY STRONG FINGERS CLAW AT UNYIELDING METAL, UNTIL...

SKRIIK

YAH-HOO! THAT DID SOMETHING!!

EEEEEEEEEEEEEEE

SKRAAK

SOMETHING? FAR MORE THAN OUR EMBATTLED HERO CAN EVEN GUESS!

SKRAK

EH--?!

T-THE CONTROLS H-HAVE GONE... DEAD! B-BUT-- THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!

NO, FARNUM, IT MEANS A MAN YOU BLINDED HAS JUST PERFORMED AN ACT OF INCREDIBLE HEROISM!

SHTPOW!

AND IF HE DIES STOPPING YOUR INSANE SCHEME--

--I SWEAR TO YOU-- I'LL SEE THAT YOU JOIN HIM!

HIS EVERY SENSE SCREAMING ANGUISH, DAREDEVIL RADAR-SCANS THE MANHATTAN SKYLINE...

THERE-- SOMETHING FLYING ERRATICALLY TOWARD CENTRAL PARK!

IT MUST BE THE BOMBDROID-- AND IT'S LOSING ALTITUDE--FAST!!

LORD-- I'VE NOT ONLY DEFUSED THE *WARHEAD* ON THIS BOLTED BUZZARD... I'VE CUT ITS *FLIGHT CONTROL*, TOO!

ARMED OR NOT, IT'LL STILL WREAK INCREDIBLE *HAVOC* IF IT CRASH-LANDS IN *MANHATTAN!* I-I'VE GOT TO DO... *SOMETHING*--!

BUT *WHAT??* I C-CAN'T *SEE*--DON'T KNOW HOW *CLOSE* I AM TO THE *STREET*--!

OMIGOSH--*SCREAMS!* WE'RE *LOWER* THAN I THOUGHT!

SPIDER-MAN IS TRYIN' TO *KILL* US ALL--!!

HE'S *INSANE!!*

N-NO-- I THINK HE'S TRYING TO *SAVE* US!

AAIIEEEEEEEEE

IT'S NICE TO KNOW *SOME* PEOPLE IN THIS TOWN ARE MORE *PERCEPTIVE* THAN J. JONAH.

AFTER ALL, IF I *WAS* THE VILLAIN JOLLY JONAH PAINTS ME--I COULD HAVE LET THIS THING *CRASH*--

--INSTEAD OF FINDING A WAY TO *PULL UP* AT THE LAST MINUTE! I-I DON'T KNOW *HOW* I DID IT--BUT IT'S ALMOST AS IF MY *SPIDER-SENSE* HAS BEEN SOMEHOW *HEIGHTENED* SINCE MY BLINDNESS!

I-I SEEM TO BE ABLE TO "*SEE*" DANGER --INSTEAD OF JUST *SENSE* IT!

*THUS, THROUGH A MYSTERIOUS TWIST OF **FATE**, SPIDER-MAN HAS DISCOVERED A SECRET OF **SIGHT-LESSNESS** ALSO KNOWN TO THE MAN CALLED... **DAREDEVIL!***

BUT WHETHER HE WILL LIVE TO MAKE USE OF HIS DISCOVERY REMAINS TO BE SEEN!

I SEEM TO SENSE A FLAT EXPANSE--EMPTY --NO BUILDINGS AROUND!

FWUMP!

I-I'VE GLIDED THE BOMBDROID IN LOW--SLOWED IT DOWN!

B-BUT--WHAT IF I'M WRONG?!

KRAKOOM!

U-UNGHH!

MOMENTS LATER, AS OUR SIGHTLESS WEB-SLINGER SCRAPES HIMSELF UP OFF ROUGH COBBLESTONES...

T-THE SMELL OF TREES... GRASS-- THINGS I NEVER SEEMED TO NOTICE BEFORE! TH-THAT MEANS I DID IT! I DOWNED THE BOMBDROID IN CENTRAL PARK!

THE DANGER'S PAST!!

FREEZE, WALL-CRAWLER!

FANTASTIC! I CAN ALMOST PIN-POINT THEIR POSITIONS-- FROM THEIR HEARTBEATS!

IT'S LIKE HAVING A T.V. COP SHOW TRANSLATED INTO BRAILLE!

HEY...I BET I'M THE WORLD'S FIRST SIGHTLESS SUPERHERO!

NO SUDDEN MOVES, WEB--SLINGER...

A BILLY CLUB? THAT MUST MEAN--!

NOT QUITE, WALL-CRAWLER!

CHOK!

GILROY --LOOK OUT!

THAT DAREDEVIL IS HERE! PLEASE HOLSTER YOUR GUNS AND BACK AWAY FROM SPIDER-MAN, OFFICERS!

I'M TAKING HIM OUT OF HERE!

BUT WE GOT REPORTS HE WAS TERRORIZING MIDTOWN--!

I DON'T HAVE THE TIME OR THE INCLINATION TO ARGUE! WAIT TILL YOU HEAR FROM YOUR SUPERIORS! THEY'RE PROBABLY TRYING TO CONTACT YOU NOW--

--WITH ORDERS TO CONVERGE ON A WEST 47th STREET PENTHOUSE... ARREST THE DEFEATED DREGS OF THE MASKED MARAUDER'S MAGGIA!

STUNNED, THE DISBELIEVING COPS RUSH TO THEIR PATROL CARS--AND DAREDEVIL'S MESSAGE IS AFFIRMED!

IT'S OVER, WEB-SLINGER! WE'VE WON!

BURSTING WITH THE NEWS OF HIS ENHANCED SENSES, SPIDER-MAN REACHES OUT--

--AND SUDDENLY REALIZES THAT HE SEES DAREDEVIL'S PRO-FERRED HAND!

WEB-SLINGER--?

SPIDER-MAN'S EYESIGHT IS RE-TURNING--

--AND HIS MEMORY OF AN ALTERNATE MODE OF "SIGHT" FADES IN THE SURGING EXCITEMENT OF RECOVERY!

DO--I-I CAN SEE AGAIN!!

THAT'S GREAT, FELLA! C'MON--WE BOTH NEED A REST!

BUT THE DAILY BUGLE SAYS HE'S A MURDERER--!

AND THE CAPTAIN SAYS HE'S A HERO! --WHO ARE YOU GONNA BELIEVE?

TAKING NO CHANCES ON A RELAPSE, AN EXHAUSTED SPIDER-MAN SPENDS THE NIGHT ON A COUCH IN THE STOREFRONT LEGAL OFFICE OF NELSON AND MURDOCK! THE NIGHT PASSES, TAKING WITH IT THE MENACE OF THE MAGGIA! AND, WITH THE COMING OF THE NEW DAY--

--DETECTIVE JIMMY D'ANGELO FINDS HIMSELF CONDUCTING A MORE-THAN-ROUTINE MISSING PERSONS INVESTIGATION...

...IN THE RAVAGED CHELSEA APARTMENT OF PETER PARKER!

FLASH, I CAME AS SOON AS I--OH MY GOD!!

EASY MJ--IT ONLY LOOKS BAD!

YEH. A LOT OF STUFF THROWN ABOUT--FURNITURE OVERTURNED--BUT NUTHIN' DESTROYED OR STOLEN AS FAR AS WE CAN TELL.

B-BUT--PETER? WHERE'S PETER ??!!

THE DEAD WALK PARKER

THAT'S WHAT WE'RE HOPING YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS COULD TELL US, MIGS.

DON'T LOOK LIKE WHOEVER DONE THIS KNEW EITHER--ELSE WHY DID HE LEAVE A CALLING CARD?

MJ--HAVEN'T YOU SEEN PETE?

N-NOT REALLY--NOT SINCE WE BROKE UP, FLASH!

BUT WHO COULD HATE PETER ENOUGH TO DO... THIS??

AND, TWO STORIES ABOVE A NARROW ALLEYWAY JUST OUTSIDE THE APARTMENT WINDOW...

THAT WAS MY SECOND QUESTION, MJ--RIGHT AFTER: "WHAT ARE YOU ALL DOING HERE?"

THE COPS ARENIT GIVING OUT ANY ANSWERS WHILE THEY WAIT FOR PETER PARKER TO SHOW UP!

THWIP

WELL, I WON'T DISAPPOINT THEM--

--ONCE I GET DRESSED, THAT IS!

FWIP!

YES/M.

AN' LIKE I TOLD THE LIEUTENANT, THE WHOLE PLACE STUNK--JUST LIKE BRIMSTONE!

I WONDER WHEN THIS HAPPENED! I WAS BLIND FOR TWO DAYS-- TOTALLY INCOMMUNICADO!

BUT THE JACKPOT QUESTION IS: DOES MY MYSTERIOUS HOUSE-BREAKER HAVE SOMETHING AGAINST PETER PARKER--

--OR DOES HE SUSPECT I'M SPIDER-MAN??

AND THAT IS A POSSIBILITY I AM DEFINITELY NOT PREPARED TO DEAL WITH AT THE MOMENT!

I'LL STASH MY SPIDEY-SUIT OUT HERE! GIVEN THE FREQUENCY OF GARBAGE COLLECTION IN THIS NEIGHBORHOOD--IT SHOULD BE SAFE FOR QUITE AWHILE!

SECONDS LATER...

HEY--WHAT GIVES? NOT ANOTHER SURPRISE DISCO PARTY, I HOPE!

PETEY--?

YOU REALLY OKAY, PETE?

HE WILL BE--WHEN MARY JANE LETS HIM UP FOR AIR!

HUH? WHOA! HOLD IT MJ--SLOW DOWN!

OH, TIGER --WE WERE SO WORRIED!

NOW LET'S HOPE I PLAY THIS NEXT PART CONVINCINGLY!

I DON'T GET IT! THERE ARE COPS ALL OVER--! HOLY SMOKES!

WHO TRASHED MY APART-MENT??!

SOMEONE WHO WOULD'VE PREFERRED TRASH-ING YOU, PARKER!

YOU'RE A NEWPAPER PHOTOGRAPHER--JOURNALISTS MAKE ENEMIES! YOU START THINKIN', SON--WE'LL START QUESTIONING!

BUT THE INTERROGATION PROVES FRUITLESS, AND FINALLY THE DISSATISIFIED POLICE DEPART!

SO YOU'VE BEEN IN THE COLLEGE INFIRMARY FOR THE PAST TWO DAYS, TIGER?

UH--RIGHT! I HURT MY EYES IN A CHEM LAB EXPERI-MENT!

POOR PETER--WHY DON'T YOU LET ME TAKECARE OF YOU TONIGHT?

BETTY--I THINK WHAT THE MAN NEEDS IS REST... NOT RECREATION! YOU CAN CRASH AT MY PLACE, PETE!

I-I GUESS I CAN'T STAY HERE. THANKS, HECTOR.

DE NADA, AMIGO. MEET YOU AFTER MY LAST CLASS--

"--TONIGHT... AT THE CAMPUS LIBRARY!"

HECTOR GAVE ME AN OUT! WHOEVER RAVAGED MY APARTMENT MIGHT TRACE ME TO A FRIEND'S HOME! I COULDN'T RISK INVOLVING THE OTHERS--BUT HECTOR'S THE WHITE TIGER!* HE CAN TAKE CARE OF HIMSELF!

BUT WHO IS MY MYSTERIOUS HOUSEBREAKER? WAS HE AFTER PETER PARKER, LIKE D'ANGELO SAID?

OR HAS SOME MADMAN DISCOVERED MY SECRET IDENTITY??

*SEE PPTSS#20--AL

MADMAN? THAT COULD FIT HARRY OSBORNE--AS THE GREEN GOBLIN, HE KNOWS I'M SPIDER-MAN!

BUT HARRY'S BEEN NORMAL SINCE OUR LAST BATTLE!* HUH? MY SPIDER-SENSE TINGLING??

*AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #180--AL

IT'S REGISTERING DANGER--INSIDE THE LIBRARY!

OMIGOSH--HECTOR! HE'S IN THERE WAITING FOR ME!

SECURITY GUARD--OUT COLD! LOOKS LIKE HE FELL THE ENTIRE FLIGHT OF STAIRS!

OR HE WAS PUSHED! LORD WHAT IF HECTOR DIDN'T HAVE A CHANCE TO TO BECOME THE TIGER!

WHAT IF SOMEONE KNEW HE'D BE MEETING ME HERE?

WHAT BETTER WAY TO LAY A TRAP FOR PETER PARKER THAN TO BAIT IT WITH ONE OF HIS FRIENDS!

HECTOR!

AIEEE! PARKER!

UNCONSCIOUS, OR--NO! HE'S BREATHING! AND THAT INSCRIPTION WRITTEN IN RED DUST ACROSS HIS CHEST--

JUST LIKE THE ONE ON MY APARTMENT WALL!

UH-OH! DANGER --BEHIND ME!

PERHAPS IT'S EXHAUSTION--OR THE SHOCK OF FINDING HECTOR'S UNCONSCIOUS BODY--BUT PETER PARKER'S VAUNTED SPIDER SENSE REACTS... JUST A FRACTION OF A SECOND TOO LATE!

DIE PARKER! DIE, MURDERER!!

SKRAM

COULDNIT AVOID HIS BLOW--HE'S SMASHED HECTOR AND ME OFF THE BALCONY! WE'RE FALLING DOWN INTO THE MAIN READING ROOM!

DONIT MAKE THIS TOO EASY FOR ME, PARKER.

USE YOUR CURSED SPIDER-AGILITY! SAVE YOURSELF!

BLAST IT! I WAS GOING TO PLAY POSSUM ALONGSIDE HECTOR--SEE WHAT WOULD HAPPEN...

BUT THERE'S NO POINT! I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHO HE IS--OR WHAT HE'S AFTER--

--BUT HE KNOWS I'M SPIDER-MAN! HE KNOWS!

YOU RECOVER QUICKLY, PARKER--YOU ARE FASTER THAN I REMEMBERED!

REMEMBERED? UGLY--I DON'T THINK WE'VE EVER MET!

AND I WISH IT HAD STAYED THAT WAY!

THERE'S SOMETHING DANGEROUS ABOUT HIS HANDS --THE WAY HE KEEPS TRYING TO TOUCH ME! GOT TO AVOID--

SKRASH!

SWEET MERCY--?!

HOLY GILLIS--EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY ART FRESHMAN HAS COME TO APOLOGIZE FOR THE COLD-SHOULDER SHE'S GIVEN HECTOR AYALA THESE PAST FEW WEEKS. BUT SHE DIDN'T EXPECT... THIS!

AND INSIDE THE CAMPUS LIBRARY...

SINCE YOU KNOW WHO I AM, IT SEEMS SILLY TO GO ON PULLING MY PUNCHES!

YOUR SPIDER STRENGTH IS USELESS AGAINST ME, PARKER!

FOR I COMMAND ABSOLUTE DOMINION OVER ALL THAT LIVES--OR ONCE LIVED! ALL ORGANIC MATTER TURNS TO ASH AT MY TOUCH!

TO DUST!

AS IF TO PROVE CARRION'S CLAIM-- THE OAKEN TABLE... CRUMBLES

BUT YOUR DEMISE WILL NOT COME SO EASILY! I WISH YOU TO SUFFER--

--FOR ALL THE MONTHS I HAVE SUFFERED BECAUSE OF YOU!

THERE MUST BE A FULL MOON TONIGHT-- THIS JOKER'S A CERTIFIED LOONY! STILL, I'VE GOT TO FIGHT BACK, OR--!

BUT, AT THAT MOMENT, ON THE BALCONY ABOVE...

HECTOR? IT'S ME--HOLLY! WHY DON'T YOU ANSWER ME??

FIRST THAT GUARD ON THE STAIRS... N-NOW SOUNDS OF FIGHTING! I'VE GOT TO FIND THE...

LIGHTS! AGGHH-- MY EYES!

PAIN STABS SEARINGLY INTO PETER'S BRAIN THROUGH STILL SENSITIVE OPTIC NERVES! HE IS BLIND AGAIN, ALBEIT MOMENTARILY--

--BUT LONG ENOUGH FOR CARRION TO GET A STRANGLEHOLD UPON OUR HERO'S THROAT!

GG-GGKK!

SOON YOU WILL WISH I HAD OBLITERATED YOU--REDUCED YOU TO DUST AS I DID THAT TABLE! BUT I WISH TO PROLONG YOUR AGONY, PARKER--UNTIL YOU HAVE PAID FOR YOUR HEINOUS CRIMES!

OH MY GOD-- WHOEVER YOU ARE... STOP IT! YOU'RE KILLING HIM!!

NO, NOT YET--THOUGH THE DEATH PENALTY IS THE PROPER PUNISHMENT FOR MURDERERS! PARKER HAS KILLED--BUT NO COURT SHALL JUDGE HIM!

FOR VENGEANCE BELONGS TO CARRION!

NEXT DUST TO DUST!

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PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN™

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MARVEL'S TV SENSATION!

...DUST TO DUST!

Pollard/Wheatley

While attending a demonstration in radiology, student PETER PARKER was bitten by a spider which had accidentally been exposed to RADIOACTIVE RAYS. Through a miracle of science, Peter soon found that he had GAINED the arachnid's powers...and had, in effect, become a human spider...

Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN!™

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YOU SHALL PAY FOR YOUR HEINOUS *CRIMES*, PARKER--BUT NO *COURT* SHALL SENTENCE YOU!

FOR VENGEANCE IS CARRION'S!!

GG-GGKK!

C-CARRION MAY BE A CERTIFIED MENTAL CASE--B-BUT HE KNOWS THAT PETER PARKER IS *SPIDER-MAN*--

--A-AND DESPITE MY *SPIDER-STRENGTH*-- HE'S *KILLING* ME!

HOLLY GILLIS'S **SCREAM** *ECHOES EERILY THROUGH THE EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY!* **HECTOR AYALA**-- *HER BOYFRIEND -- LIES SEEMINGLY* **LIFELESS** *ON THE FLOOR...*

...AND THE CRIMSON LEGEND SCRAWLED ACROSS HIS CHEST HAS SHIFTED FROM **"ASHES TO ASHES"** *TO--*

DUST TO DUST

I--I DON'T KNOW **WHY** CARRION WANTS ME **DEAD**--

--OR HOW HE DISCOVERED MY **SECRET IDENTITY**--

--BUT **NEITHER** WILL **MATTER**, UNLESS I BREAK HIS **STRANGLEHOLD** ON MY THROAT!

FWAP!

I--I DID IT!!

CLEVER, PARKER--BUT I SENSE THAT WAS YOUR **BEST EFFORT!**

HE--HE'S RIGHT! I'M STILL **EXHAUSTED** FROM MY BATTLE WITH THE **MAGGIA!***

MY **EYES** HAVEN'T FULLY RECOVERED FROM THE MASKED MARAUDER'S **OPTI-BLAST**--AND I STILL CAN'T PUT MY FULL WEIGHT ON MY **SPRAINED ANKLE!**

* SEE PPTS6 #'S25-27 --AL.

I'M A **MESS**--AND CARRION KNOWS IT...IN FACT HE SEEMS TO KNOW **EVERYTHING** ABOUT ME--THAT I'M **SPIDER-MAN**--WHERE I **LIVE**--WHO MY **FRIENDS** ARE!

BUT **HOW** DOES HE KNOW? **WHO IS HE?**

YOU **BACK OFF** WARILY, PARKER. HAVE YOU SO SOON REALIZED THE **FUTILITY** OF FIGHTING ME?! THERE'S **SOMETHING** ASKEW HERE.

HECTOR? OH, LORD--WHAT'S HE **DONE** TO YOU?!

TO BE CONTINUED

SPEAK TO ME-- **PLEASE!** YOU--YOU CAN'T BE **DEAD**... NOT BEFORE I TELL YOU HOW MUCH I--I **CARE** FOR YOU!

I--I KNOW NOW YOU COULDN'T **HELP** BEING THE **WHITE TIGER!*** I WAS **WRONG** TO BLAME YOU FOR IT!

*AS REVEALED IN PETER PARKER #20--AL.

LORD--CARRION'S **HEARD** HER! HE'S **TURNING** ON THEM!

HOLLY--GRAB **HECTOR** AND DRAG HIM **OUT** OF HERE!

DO IT, LADY-- **NOW!!**

B-BUT, CAN'T YOU **SEE,** PETE? HECTOR'S **DEAD!!**

NO! HE'S ONLY **UNCONSCIOUS**-- BUT HOLLY'S IN A STATE OF **SHOCK!** I'VE GOT TO SNAP HER **OUT** OF IT BEFORE...

AH, I'D FORGOTTEN YOUR **FRIENDS,** PARKER! **I** HAD FRIENDS, TOO--**ONCE**... BEFORE YOU **MURDERED** THEM!

PERHAPS IT WOULD **SWEETEN** MY REVENGE TO DEPRIVE YOU OF THOSE YOU **CARE** FOR. STARTING WITH THIS **GIRL** HERE--!

N-NO! I'VE DONE **NOTHING** TO YOU!

KEEP AWAY FROM ME!!

YOU **SHRINK** FROM MY TOUCH, GIRL? YOU SENSE ITS POWER OF **DESTRUCTION** OVER ALL THAT **LIVES?**

KEEP YOUR FILTHY HANDS OFF HER, CARRION!

P-PETE--?!

CARRION HASN'T SPILLED MY ***SECRET*** IN FRONT OF HOLLY YET--MAYBE I CAN ***USE*** THAT TO GET HER ***OUT*** OF HERE!

HOLLY-- I'M NO ***HERO***... BUT I CAN HOLD CARRION OFF TILL YOU CALL ***CAMPUS SECURITY!***

AL-ALRIGHT, PETE-- B-BUT PLEASE BE ***CAREFUL!***

REMEMBER-- HECTOR'S THE ***WHITE TIGER***... AND IT DIDN'T ***HELP***--NOT AT ALL!

SURE--'CAUSE HECTOR WAS EXPECTING ***ME*** TO SHOW UP...NOT A ***HOMICIDAL MANIAC*** WITH INCREDIBLE POWERS!

THEY'RE ***GONE!*** NOW I CAN CONCENTRATE SOLELY ON--

--CARRION?!

DON'T LOOK SO ***SURPRISED***, PARKER--MY ***NATURE*** IS SUCH THAT THE VERY ***AIR*** REPELS ME AWAY FROM IT... A RATHER MACABRE FORM OF ***LEVITATION!***

CONVERSELY--I CAN ALSO *REPEL MATTER* AWAY FROM ME...TOWARD WHOMSOEVER I CHOOSE!

FRUMP!

B-BOOKCASES--BOOKS-- EVERYTHING'S LAUNCHING ITSELF AT ME...LIKE SOME *INSANE NIGHTMARE!*

THIS IS JUST A *TASTE* OF MY POWERS, PARKER--A *PRELUDE* OF THINGS TO COME!

KRAK!

UNGHH

WHEN I AM *DONE* WITH YOU, YOU WILL *BEG* FOR THE RE-LEASE OF *DEATH!*

BUT I KNOW *YOU*, PARKER--YOUR *HOPES, DREAMS*...YOUR *LOVES!* I, TOO, ONCE *LOVED*--

--UNTIL YOU *KILLED* THAT AND EVERYTHING *ELSE* IN ME!

EMBRACE THE *RED DEATH*, PARKER!

PWOOF!

YOU WILL *SUFFER* AS I HAVE SUFFERED --AND YOU WILL KNOW THE *ANGUISH* OF THE *DAMNED!*

I CAN'T MAKE ANY *SENSE* OUT OF THIS--AND CARRION'S REACHING FOR SOME-THING IN HIS *POUCH!*

B-BUT *WHY?* I DON'T EVEN *KNOW* WHO YOU ARE?!

I'M NOT GONNA JUST *SIT* HERE AND *WAIT* TO SEE WHAT--!

AAGHH! M-MY FACE!!

THIS TIME ITS TOUCH WILL MERELY BE PAINFUL-- NOT FATAL!

BUT WE WILL MEET AGAIN, PARKER...

"...WE WILL MEET AGAIN.!!

H-HE'S GONE-- AND I CAN'T STOP MY LEAP!

SKRASH!

WHILE, ON THE MAIN FLOOR...

TH-THAT SOUND--OF BREAKING GLASS!

WHAT'S THAT MAD-MAN DOING TO PETER?!

H-HOLLY? YOU... HERE?

AND PETE'S UP-STAIRS WITH WHOEVER AMBUSHED ME?!

¡HOYE! IT IS TIME FOR FOR HECTOR AYALA TO STEP ASIDE--

-- AND FOR THE WHITE TIGER TO TAKE HIS PLACE!!

ALTHOUGH HOLLY GILLIS HAS SEEN THIS TRANSFORMA-TION BEFORE, SHE WILL NEVER GET USED TO IT...

H-HECTOR--?

...NOT AS LONG AS SHE LIVES!

WHILE, OUTSIDE...

F-FALLING FAST-- CAN'T GRIP THE WALL WITH MY SHOES ON!

I-- I'M GONNA HIT... HARD!!

SKRAM!

SECONDS LATER...

AMIGO--?

H-HECTOR? I--I'M ALRIGHT-- THE **BUSHES** BROKE MY FALL! JUST HAD THE **WIND** KNOCKED OUT OF ME!

HECTOR! IS **HE**--??

MIRACULOUSLY--HE IS **ALIVE,** AMIGA! BUT YOUR **ATTACKER**--?

GONE! HE RAVED ABOUT THINGS I DIDN'T UNDER-STAND, **KICKED** ME AROUND--

--THEN THREW A **RED POWDER** IN MY FACE-- **LAUGHED** AND **VANISHED!**

¡SÍ! THAT **SAME** POWDER ROBBED ME OF **CONSCIOUSNESS** BEFORE I KNEW WHAT WAS HAPPENING!

OBVIOUSLY, THIS **CARRION** IS THE SAME ONE WHO RAVAGED YOUR **APARTMENT!*** BUT **COME,** AMIGO --YOU ARE **TIRED!**

*LAST ISH--AL.

TIRED ISN'T THE WORD, HECTOR-- I'M--

--EXHAUSTED!

THREE DAYS OF INCREDIBLE TENSION HAVE AT LAST TAKEN THEIR **TOLL** ON PETER PARKER! UN-ABLE TO HELP HIMSELF, HE SLUMPS FORWARD--

--AND, CHANGING BACK FROM THE **WHITE TIGER** IN A FLASH OF JADE BRILLIANCE...

...HECTOR AYALA MAKES A **DECISION!**

¡CARÁJO! PETE NEEDS A **DOCTOR** MORE THAN HE NEEDS **REST!** COME ON, HOLLY! LET'S GET HIM TO--

"--THE CAMPUS INFIRMARY!"

MORNING, PETE--LOOKS LIKE BAD LUCK IS BECOMING A HABIT WITH YOU!

EME

HI, FLASH--SHA SHAN. I GUESS HECTOR AND HOLLY TOLD YOU WHAT HAPPENED!

BUT I'M DARNED IF I CAN FIGURE IT OUT! I'VE NEVER EVEN HEARD OF THIS CARRION CHARACTER--

--YET HE BUSTS UP MY APARTMENT-- ALMOST KILLS ME-- THEN ACCUSES ME OF BEING A MURDERER!

BUT HE DOESN'T SAY WHO I'M SUPPOSED TO HAVE KILLED!

MR. PARKER-- YOU NEED REST!

I SUGGEST YOU LET THE POLICE HANDLE IT, SON-- YOUR BLOOD PRESSURE IS ALREADY WAY TOO HIGH!

THAT'S PROBABLY MY SPIDER-STRENGTH-- BUT I CAN'T VERY WELL TELL THE DOC THAT!

AND, EMERGING OUT INTO THE CHILL JANUARY WIND THAT SWEEPS THE CAMPUS...

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO, PETE? THIS GUY CARRION OBVIOUSLY MEANS BUSINESS!

WHAT CAN I DO, FLASH? I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHO HE IS, OR WHY HE'S AFTER ME!

BUT I INTEND TO FIND OUT-- JUST AS SOON AS I RETRIEVE MY SPIDER-MAN COSTUME FROM THAT ALLEYWAY I DITCHED IT IN YESTERDAY!*

GOOD THING I WASN'T WEARING IT--OR THE DOCS WOULD HAVE SPOTTED IT.

*LAST ISH--AL.

YOU THINK THESE ATTACKS HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH YOUR NEWSPAPER WORK, PETE?

POSSIBLY, HECTOR--BUT I DON'T THINK SO!

THEN YOU DO HAVE SOME IDEA WHO CARRION MIGHT BE?!

NO...JUST A--*FEELING!* DON'T ASK ME *WHAT*--BUT THERE'S SOMETHING EERILY...*FAMILIAR* ABOUT HIM--

--SOMETHING THAT LINKS HIM TO THE *UNIVERSITY!*

YOU SHOULD TELL *DETECTIVE D'ANGELO,* PETE!

I WILL, HOLLY--WHEN I'VE GOT SOMETHING MORE *DEFINITE* TO GO ON!

CALL IF YOU NEED *HELP,* PETE!

THERE MAY NOT BE *TIME*--IF CARRION SHOULD REAPPEAR! I THINK THE *WHITE TIGER* WILL KEEP AN EYE ON *PETER!*

*AND, THE MENACE OF **CARRION** MONOPOLIZING HIS THOUGHTS, PETE WANDERS DISTRACTEDLY THROUGH THE THRONGS OF **STUDENTS** REPORTING TO THEIR MORNING CLASSES.*

IS CARRION SOME DERANGED *VIGILANTE*-- OUT TO GET ME BECAUSE JAMESON'S BRANDED ME A *MURDERER* IN THE PAGES OF THE *DAILY BUGLE?*

NO--THAT'S TOO *SIMPLE* AN EXPLANATION--

--AND *EVERYTHING* ABOUT THE MYSTERY OF CARRION SMACKS OF SINISTER *COMPLEXITY!* IT'S LIKE SOME GHOULISH *JIGSAW PUZZLE*--

--MISSING JUST *ONE PIECE* TO MAKE ALL THE *REST* FALL INTO PLACE!

HUH? OH--*EXCUSE ME!*

WHY IN BLAZES DON'T YOU *WATCH* WHERE YOU'RE--?!

SAY, YOU'RE *PETER PARKER,* AREN'T YOU?

MY *FAME* PRECEDES ME--HOW'D YOU *KNOW?*

I SAW YOUR *PICTURE* IN LAST YEAR'S *GRADUATING YEARBOOK!*

I'M *RANDY VALE*--SCIENCE UNDERGRADUATE! YOU'RE MY *STUDENT TEACHER* IN BIOPHYSICS!

IF I EVER MAKE UP MY *GYM CREDIT,* THAT IS!

BUT DON'T WORRY--I'LL *BE THERE* FOR YOUR FIRST CLASS!

I WOULDN'T *COUNT* ON THAT, PARKER--NOT AT *ALL!*

TURNING HIS BACK ON PETER PARKER...

SCIENCE

...UNDERGRADUATE **RANDY VALE** MOUNTS THE STAIRS OF **E.S.U.**'s **SCIENCE BUILDING**--

--AND PROCEEDS DOWN ITS DESERTED CORRIDORS, HIS FOOTSTEPS ECHOING ON POLISHED MARBLE FLOORS.

AB OFFICE

HE **STOPS** BEFORE A DOOR--

--AND, USING A **KEY** ONLY THE CAMPUS **FACULTY** SHOULD POSSESS...HE **OPENS** IT!

I'VE **MET** HIM, SIR--AS YOU **ORDERED!**

ENTRAPPING HIM WILL BE **CHILD'S PLAY!**

DO NOT **UNDER-ESTIMATE** PETER PARKER, VALE!

THERE IS FAR **MORE** TO HIM THAN I HAVE DEIGNED TO **TELL** YOU!

BUT HE WILL **DIE** JUST THE SAME!

YES, SIR--I'M SURE YOU WILL **SEE** TO THAT!

AS RANDY VALE SUPPRESSES AN INVOLUNTARY **SHUDDER**--

--OUR SCENE SHIFTS TO DOWNTOWN **CHELSEA**, WHERE WE FIND...

MORE **DOODADS** FOR PARKER'S APARTMENT, MISS WATSON?

MS. WATSON-- **MS.** MUGGINS!

HEH-HEH! THE **TIMES** THEY ARE A' CHANGIN', AIN'T THEY? GO ON UP, HONEY--THE **OTHERS** ARE WAITIN'!

SAY--IT LOOKS ALMOST **HABITABLE** AGAIN!

HARRY AND **LIZ** CAME OVER TO GIVE ME A HAND, MARY JANE--LUCKILY, NOTHING WAS **DESTROYED!***

BUT THE PLACE SURE **COULD** USE ANOTHER LAMP!

I ONLY HOPE THIS **CHEERS** PETER UP WHEN HE GETS HOME!

*AFTER LAST ISSUE'S **BREAK-IN**--AL.

BUT PETER PARKER HAS BEEN AND GONE--RETRIEVING SOMETHING FROM A GARBAGE CAN ALONGSIDE HIS APARTMENT BUILDING WITHOUT EVER ENTERING HIS HOME!

I COULDN'T PUT MARY JANE OR LIZ AND HARRY IN DANGER!

CARRION SEEMS TO KNOW MY EVERY MOVE!

ALL RIGHT THEN--HE WANTS ME, I'LL MAKE IT EASY FOR HIM...BY KEEPING IN THE OPEN!

SINCE I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE TO BEGIN LOOKING FOR HIM--THE ONLY WAY TO CONFRONT HIM IS BY GIVING HIM EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO ATTACK ME!

BUT, UNBEKNOWNST TO OUR GRIM GRADUATE STUDENT, A PALE GUARDIAN ANGEL MONITORS HIS MOVEMENTS!

AND, EFFORTLESSLY LEAPING ACROSS THE CAMPUS'S ROOFTOPS, THE WHITE TIGER STALKS...

YOU ARE PLAYING A MOST DANGEROUS GAME, SEÑOR PARKER!

YOU SHOULD LEAVE SUPER-VILLAINS TO US SUPERHEROES-- AND NOT PLAY WITH FIRE!

BUT THE WHITE TIGER CANNOT BE FAULTED FOR KNOWING LESS OF PETER PARKER THAN THE PUBLIC KNOWS OF HIM!

FOR HIS DUAL IDENTITY IS NO MYSTERY --WHILE SPIDER-MAN'S IS A CLOSELY-GUARDED SECRET!

NOR CAN THE TIGER BE CRITICIZED FOR NOT HEARING THE SILENTLY GLIDING FIGURE THAT EVEN NOW SWOOPS IN UPON HIM--

--ON FRAGILE **WINGS** WHICH SOUNDLESSLY RIDE THE **WIND!**

AND, NOT GIFTED WITH PETER PARKER'S ABILITY TO **SENSE DANGER**, THE TIGER REMAINS **IGNORANT** OF HIS IMPENDING PERIL--

--UNTIL IT IS FAR **TOO LATE!**

EH--? A **RUSTLING** BEHIND ME--? **¡CARAJO!**

I DON'T UNDERSTAND YOUR **SPANISH**, WHITE TIGER--

--BUT I TRUST **YOU** WILL UNDERSTAND ***THIS!!***

ZAM!

GGNNNGG

TAKEN BY **SURPRISE**, THE TIGER **DROPS**--

--AND HIS UNKNOWN ASSAILANT **LEAVES** HIM WHERE HE LIES!

DARTER CALLING, SIR--PARKER'S "**SHADOW**" HAS BEEN ELIMINATED!

OUR **TARGET** IS VERY MUCH ON HIS **OWN** NOW!

BUT...

SO--THE ATTACK **BEGINS!** CARRION SENDS A LACKEY TO DETAIN **ME**--LEAVING PARKER **UNGUARDED** AND **DEFENSELESS!**

BUT THIS **HENCHMAN** WILL LEARN THAT I AM FAR MORE **FORMIDABLE** THAN HE HAD BARGAINED FOR!

AND WHAT OF THE "DEFENSELESS" **PETER PARKER?**

THAT **FLASH OF LIGHT** IN CAMPUS PARK! CAN THIS BE THE **START** OF--?

CARRION!

OF COURSE! OUR GAME **RESUMES**, PARKER --WITH **DEATH** THE FINAL **VICTOR!**

AND *DEATH* IS BUT ANOTHER NAME FOR... *CARRION!*

...BUT I PLAN TO WRING SOME *ANSWERS* OUT OF YOU, SO HELP ME...

DON'T YOU REALIZE YET THAT YOU CAN-NOT *OUTMANEUVER* THE *INEVITABLE*, PARKER? OUR DUEL IS *RIGGED*-- IN MY *FAVOR!* YOU CAN'T *WIN*--

MY ENTIRE LIFE SEEMS TO BE AN *OPEN BOOK* TO HIM! YET IF HE'S ALWAYS *WATCHING* ME --WHY DOESN'T MY *SPIDER-SENSE* ALERT ME TO IT?

IN FACT, CARRION'S THE MOST DEADLY *FOE* I'VE EVER FACED--AND MY SPIDER-SENSE ISN'T *REACTING* EVEN NOW!

MISTER-- YOU'RE AS *CRACKED* AS THE *LIBERTY BELL...!*

--YOU CAN ONLY *PLAY* ACCORDING TO THE *RULES* THAT I DEVISE! NOW WHY NOT CHANGE TO THE *COSTUME* YOU WEAR BENEATH YOUR STREET CLOTHES? THE ONE YOU *RETRIEVED* FROM THAT *ALLEYWAY?*

BUT I CAN'T LET HIM *SHAKE ME!* THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT HE *WANTS!*

STILL, WHEN WE *LOCK HORNS* THIS TIME, HE'LL BE FACING A PETER PARKER WHO'S *RESTED*--

--AND READY FOR *ACTION* AS THE *SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN!*

THERE HE IS--ATOP THE *GYM BUILDING!*

RECOGNIZE IT, PARKER--THE SCENE OF YOUR *ACADEMIC FAILURE?*

YOU WOULD HAVE *GRADUATED* HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR A MISSING *GYM* CREDIT!

GYMNASIUM

CRIPES! HOW DO YOU FIGHT A VILLAIN WHO THROWS YOUR REPORT CARD AT YOU?

GONE AGAIN --WELL, WHY NOT?

GYMNASIUM

IT'S ALMOST AS IF HE'S NEVER REALLY THERE TO BEGIN WITH! HE'S MORE LIKE A GHOST THAN--!

CARELESS, PARKER!

SWOK

WHUNNFF!

AGAIN--NOT A TINGLE OUT OF MY SPIDER-SENSE! EITHER HE'S SOMEHOW DEFUSED IT--

THWIP!

--OR IT DOESN'T RECOGNIZE HIM AS A SOURCE OF DANGER!

NOW THAT'S AN INTERESTING THOUGHT!

KRASH!

COULDN'T GUIDE MY SWING --I'M CRASHING INTO THE GYM!

A FITTING FINAL RESTING PLACE, ISN'T IT, PARKER?

YOUR LIFE AND YOUR SCHOLASTIC HOPES WILL BOTH BE SMASHED HERE!

WHAT ARE YOU --A GUIDANCE COUNSELOR UNDER THAT HALLOWEEN MASK?

I AM ONE YOU **KNEW**, PARKER-- BUT I AM **NOT** WHO I WAS!

OBOY! NOW WE'RE PLAYING "WHAT'S MY LINE," RIGHT?

FOOL! THE ONLY **GAME** WE ARE PLAYING IS **REVENGE!**

REVENGE FOR WHAT YOU **STOLE** FROM ME! THE ONLY **BEAUTIFUL** THING I'D EVER KNOWN--THE ONLY THING I'D EVER **LOVED**...AND, FINALLY, MY **LIFE!**

YOUR-- AH-- **LIFE,** DID YOU SAY?

CAN YOU NOT YET GRASP THE **TRUTH,** MURDERER?

BUT, BEFORE SPIDER-MAN CAN EVEN **BEGIN** TO DECIPHER CARRION'S STRANGE **DECLARATION**...

SKRASH!!

OH--I GOT THE **TRUTH** EARLY ON, FELLA! YOU'RE AN ESCAPEE FROM A **HOME FOR THE NOT-ALL-THERE!** YOU READ JAMESON'S **ATTACKS** ON ME IN THE **BUGLE**--

--AND SOMEHOW GOT THE **POWER** TO TURN YOUR NEUROSIS INTO A ONE-MAN **SMASH SPIDER-MAN CAMPAIGN!** BUT I'VE NEVER **KILLED** ANYONE-- YOU GOT THAT?

LIAR!! YOU MURDERED THEM **BOTH**--BY **FALL** AND BY **FIRE!**

DARTER! YOU DARE--?!

MASTER, I-- I COULDN'T **HELP** IT! HE **RECOVERED**-- TOOK ME BY **SURPRISE!**

THE **WHITE TIGER**--? CARRION MUST HAVE WANTED TO MAKE SURE HE DIDN'T **INTERFERE** IN OUR FIGHT--

--BUT HIS **UNEXPECTED ENTRANCE** HAS CAUGHT CARRION OFF GUARD! THIS IS MY **CHANCE!**

C'MON **DOWN,** RAG BAGS! YOU'VE BEEN MAKING LIKE A **DELPHIC ORACLE** ALL DAY--

--BUT NOW I WANT **FACTS**--NOT FANTASY!

STARTING WITH **WHO** THE **TWO PEOPLE** ARE I'M SUPPOSED TO HAVE **MURDERED!**

NAMES? I CHARGE YOU WITH THE **DEATHS** OF THE **SWEETEST GIRL** WHO EVER LIVED--AND OF THE GENTLEST **OLD MAN** WHO EVER BEFRIENDED YOU!

W-WHO ARE YOU **TALKING** ABOUT--??

YOUR **TONE** ALREADY SUGGESTS THAT YOU HAVE **GUESSED** AT THE **TRUTH!** YES, WALL-CRAWLER--

--I ACCUSE YOU OF THE MURDER OF **GWEN STACY** AND **PROFESSOR MILES WARREN!**

OH, MY GOD...!

THE SINISTER SECRET OF CARRION REVEALED!!

THOSE WHO FORGET THE PAST...!

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PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN™

KEITH & BOB

CRIMSON DUST OF DEATH!

While attending a demonstration in radiology, student PETER PARKER was bitten by a spider which had accidentally been exposed to RADIOACTIVE RAYS. Through a miracle of science, Peter soon found that he had GAINED the arachnid's powers...and had, in effect, become a human spider...

STAN LEE PRESENTS: THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN!™

SECRET AS THE GRAVE!

IN THE EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY GYMNASIUM, THE CADAVEROUS CARRION HAS JUST MADE A MOST STARTLING PRONOUNCEMENT...

I CHARGE YOU, SPIDER-MAN, WITH THE COLD-BLOODED MURDER OF GWEN STACY AND PROFESSOR MILES WARREN!

OH, MY GOD-- I WAS RIGHT! YOU ARE A PSYCHO!

JESTING FOOL! LAUGH WHILE YOU MAY-- FOR THE MOMENT OF RETRIBUTION IS AT HAND!

THUS, WHILE THE WHITE TIGER AND CARRION'S HENCHMAN, DARTER, BATTLE IN THE BACK-GROUND-- THE FINAL CON-FRONTATION BEGINS!

LG115

BILL MANTLO WRITER | JIM MOONEY ARTIST | FRANK SPRINGER INKER | NOVAK, LETTERS | ALLEN MILGROM EDITOR | JIM SHOOTER EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

THIS IS INSANE! HOW CAN CARRION KNOW THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF PROFESSOR WARREN'S DEATH--THAT HE DIED IN A FIERY *EXPLOSION*--

--WHEN THAT WAS KNOWN ONLY TO MYSELF AND THE *CLONED* GWEN STACY!

NO ONE ELSE SHOULD EVEN SUSPECT THAT *PETER PARKER* WAS PRESENT...AS SPIDER-MAN!

MILES WARREN DIED ATTEMPTING TO AVENGE YOUR *MURDER* OF GWEN STACY, INSECT!

I'VE BEEN *CLEARED* OF THAT, RAG-BAGS!

THE WHOLE WORLD KNOWS IT WAS THE *GREEN GOBLIN* WHO MURDERED GWEN! EVERYONE ACCEPTED THAT!

EXCEPT PROFESSOR WARREN--WHO *LOVED* GWENDY. THAT'S WHY HE *CLONED* HER--AND AS THE *JACKAL*--

--USED GWEN'S CLONE TO *ENTRAP* ME! BUT HE CAME TO HIS SENSES AT THE VERY END--

--AND THE *OFFICIAL* VERSION HAS IT THAT HE DIED A *HERO!**

*AS SEEN IN *AMAZING SPIDER-MAN* #'S 147-151 --AL.

I DO NOT ACCEPT IT, WALL-CRAWLER! WITH WARREN DEAD YOURS IS THE ONLY TRUTH TO SURVIVE!

YET I KNOW HE THOUGHT YOU MIGHT TRY TO *KILL* HIM WHEN HE CONFRONTED YOU WITH YOUR CRIMES--AND HE WAS RIGHT!

I DON'T GET YOU, CARRION!

YOU KNOW THINGS--EVEN MY *SECRET IDENTITY*--THAT NO ONE SHOULD KNOW, BUT YOUR INFORMATION'S *FLAWED!*

OTHERWISE YOU'D KNOW THAT PROFESSOR WARREN WAS ALSO THE DEADLY *JACKAL!*

OF COURSE HE WAS! HE BECAME THE JACKAL TO SEEK HIS *REVENGE* ON YOU!

AGAIN CARRION'S REVEALED KNOWLEDGE OF SOMETHING *NO ONE* SHOULD BE AWARE OF!

WHICH ONLY DEEPENS THE *MYSTERY* SURROUNDING HIM! UH-OH! HE'S *LEVITATING* AFTER ME!

YOU CAN'T ESCAPE MY *DEATH-TOUCH*, PARKER!

FORGET ABOUT HELPING *SPIDER-MAN*, WHITE TIGER! YOU'VE GOT YOUR OWN PROBLEMS!

YOUR WINGED COSTUME RENDERS YOU *SWIFT*, SEÑOR DARTER- BUT YOU CANNOT MATCH THE WHITE TIGER IN *AGILITY!*

TAKING TO THE *AIR* PUTS YOU IN MY ELEMENT, TIGER!

I DON'T THINK SO, AMIGO!

FOR NOT ONLY WILL THE COLLEGE'S PROPS SERVE TO CARRY ME *AWAY* FROM YOU--

-- BUT THEY CAN ALSO BE CONVERTED INTO QUITE AN EFFECTIVE *SNARE!*

I SHOULD NEVER HAVE FOLLOWED HIM UP INTO THE *RIGGING!*

THE ROPES ARE *PINNING* ME! CAN'T EVEN REACH MY *STUN-GUN!*

BLAST IT! THE CRISS-CROSSING ROPES ARE SNAGGING MY *GLIDER-WINGS!*

BUT IF HE THINKS I'M *HELPLESS*, HE'S CRAZY! I CAN CUT MY WAY LOOSE WITH THESE *FINGER-TIP LASERS* CARRION HAD ME BUILD INTO THIS COSTUME!

BUT WHILE **DARTER** FREES HIMSELF...

YOU CANNOT RUN FROM DEATH **FOREVER**, FOOL!

WHY NOT? I'VE BEEN AVOIDING THE **IRS** FOR YEARS!

GOT TO LEAD HIM **OUT** OF HERE--BEFORE THE TIGER OVERHEARS HIM CALLING ME "**PARKER**"!

I NEED NOT **TOUCH** TO SLAY, PARKER! THERE IS ALWAYS... THE **RED DEATH!**

GEE! YOU MEAN THERE'S MORE TO LOOK FORWARD TO IN LIFE THAN LEGION-NAIRE'S DISEASE?

BUT THE **JOKE** CATCHES IN THE WALL-CRAWLER'S THROAT, FOR NO SOONER DOES THE **RED DUST** CONTACT THE GYM'S BLEACHERS--

--THEN IT **EATS** THROUGH THE METAL LIKE A HIGHLY-CORROSIVE **ACID!**

SSSSSSSS

CRIPES--TO THINK THAT COULD HAVE BEEN **ME!** NOW I'VE GOT ANOTHER REASON TO GET **OUT** OF HERE!

IT'S CALLED... **SURVIVAL!**

OOPS! THIS IS HARDLY WHAT I'D CALL THE **GREAT OUTDOORS!**

STILL, IT'LL GIVE ME A **BREATHER** IF I CAN GET ALL THAT **WATER** BETWEEN ME AND CARRION!

A FOOLHARDY HOPE, PARKER-- AND ONE DOOMED TO *FAILURE!*

BLAST! I FORGOT HE CAN *TELEPORT* HIMSELF AS WELL AS *LEVITATE!* HE'S HOVERING RIGHT ABOVE ME!

INSECT!

SWOK!

UNGH!

IT *AMUSES* ME TO SEE YOU SUFFER THIS WAY, PARKER!

YEAH? I LIKE A SADIST WHO'S HAPPY IN HIS WORK!

BUT I GUESS THE SENSE OF HUMOR GOES WITH YOUR *DECAYING* PERSONALITY, HUH UGLY?

MILES WARREN SHOULD HAVE DESTROYED YOU WHILE HE HAD YOU IN HIS *POWER,* WALL-CRAWLER!

BUT HIS MISTAKE WILL SOON BE *RECTIFIED!*

WRAK!

A-AAGH! MY FINGERS-- *BURNING!*

OF COURSE! MY PHYSICAL FORM *REPELS* ANY LIVING THING IT COMES IN CONTACT WITH!

W-WATER'S COOLING THE BURN! LORD-- HOW CAN I *FIGHT* SOMEBODY I CAN'T EVEN *TOUCH?*

NIX! SCRATCH THAT KIND OF THINKING, WEBHEAD! CARRION WANTS YOU TO THINK IT'S *HOPELESS!*

WHICH IT MAY WELL *BE*-- BUT I'VE NEVER BEEN A *QUITTER!* NOPE-- US SPIDER-MEN MAY GET KNOCKED DOWN...

...BUT WE ALWAYS COME BACK UP *SWINGING!*

AND NOW IT'S *EL DISGUSTO'S* TURN TO DROP INTO THE DRINK!

HEY-- WHADDA YA KNOW! I GOT IN A *GOOD ONE* -- STRAIGHT TO THE *CHIN!*

SPLASH

ARGH! I--I FORGOT THAT MY **FINGERS** WERE STILL BLISTERED!

H-HAVING TROUBLE **CLING-ING!**

CAN BARELY HOLD ON, AND... EH?

THE-- THE **WATER** IN THE POOL--IT'S TURNING... **BLACK!** STARTING TO FROTH--TO **BOIL!** IT'S--

FROOSH!

I WARNED YOU, WALL-CRAWLER--IT IS MY **NATURE** TO REPULSE **ORGANIC MATTER...** BE IT SOLID OR LIQUID!

I'VE GOTTA HAND IT TO YA, RAGS--YOU'RE THE MOST **REPULSIVE** BADDIE I'VE EVER HADDA FIGHT!

HAVE ANY OTHER TRICKS UP YOUR DECOMPOSING SLEEVE--OR ARE YOU PLANNING ON RESTING YOUR REPUTATION ON YOUR ABILITY TO **EMPTY** SWIMMING POOLS?

HARDLY, INSECT! THE **FUN** HAS MERELY BEGUN!

MEANWHILE, IN THE MAIN GYMNASIUM...

CARRION WANTS YOU KEPT *AWAY* FROM SPIDER-MAN, TIGER!

EH? *DARTER*-- FREE?!

ZAP

AS A *BIRD*-- AND SWOOPING FOR THE *ATTACK!* DON'T PUSH ME, TIGER!

THIS BLASTER CAN KILL!

NOT IF IT DOES NOT STRIKE ITS *TARGET*, SEÑOR!

AND I AM NOT PREDISPOSED TO BEING *STRUCK!*

YOUR ATTEMPT AT *COVER* IS PATHETIC, HERO! I DESIGNED THIS PISTOL TO CARRION'S SPECIFICATIONS!

IT'LL *SLICE* THROUGH ANYTHING!

ZTRAK

¡OYE!

AN EXCELLENT SHOT, AMIGO--

--AS IT MADE YOU SWOOP *LOW* ENOUGH TO ENABLE ME TO DO *THIS!*

WHA--?

YOUR *INEXPERIENCE* SHOWS, SEÑOR!

THAT YOU ARE MERELY CARRION'S *LACKEY* IS PAINFULLY APPARENT! BE THANKFUL THAT I HAVE NOT *SLAIN* YOU!

THWOK

BUT YOUR *MASTER* ATTACKED HECTOR AYALA AS WELL AS SPIDER-MAN!* THUS, I HAVE A SCORE OF MY OWN TO SETTLE--!

TIGER!

*THE WHITE TIGER IS HECTOR AYALA. SEE PPTSS #28-29 -- AL.

¡FANTASTICO! YOU RECOVER *QUICKLY*, AMIGO!

I'VE BEEN GIVEN A *JOB* TO DO, TIGER-- AND CARRION'LL BE MOST *DISPLEASED* IF I FAIL HIM! I DON'T INTEND TO DISAPPOINT HIM... I'VE FACED HIS ANGER BEFORE!

AND, IN THE POOL ROOM...

MUST TAKE AN AWFUL LOT OF *HOT AIR* TO LIFT YOU THAT WAY, RAGS!

HE WHO LAUGHS IN THE FACE OF DEATH IS A *FOOL*, INSECT--

-- FOR THE *LAST LAUGH* WILL FALL TO *CARRION!*

NOT IF I CAN COVER YOUR SMIRK WITH A GLOB OF *WEBBING*, PRETTY BOY!

ALAS, YOU *CANNOT!*

FOR YOUR ABSURD WEB-FLUID CRUMBLES TO *DRY PASTE* ERE IT EVER REACHES ITS TARGET!

JUST IMAGINE, WHEN, WHAT MY *TOUCH OF DOOM* WILL DO WHEN IT COMES INTO CONTACT WITH...*YOU!*

TROUBLE IS: I *CAN* IMAGINE IT--

--AND THE THOUGHT GIVES ME *CHILLS!* HUH?

WHO DARES--?!

M-MASTER--I'M *SORRY!* I--I DIDN'T EXPECT THE WHITE TIGER TO *DUCK--!*

AS I SAID, SENOR-- YOU ARE MUCHO THE *AMATEUR!*

WRAM

DARTER'S MAD FLIGHT CARRIES BOTH HE AND CARRION TO THE FAR SIDE OF THE NOW-EMPTY SWIMMING POOL--

THUD

--WHILE THE **WHITE TIGER** LEAPS TO AID SPIDER-MAN!

GET COLD FEET BEFORE THE *BIG DIVE*, AMIGO?

VERY FUNNY! MORE LIKE *FRIED HANDS*, TIGER!

CARRION'S GOT THIS CUTE QUALITY-- HE'S *UNTOUCHABLE* WHEN HE WANTS TO BE! HE'S ALSO--

--TIGER! BEHIND YOU!

EH--?

SWAM!

DESPERATELY THE TIGER TRIES TO **ARC** HIS BODY--TO LAND ON HIS FEET!

BUT THE DROP IS TOO *SHORT*--

WHROOM

--THOUGH NO LESS JARRING!

EVERYONE INTO THE *POOL*, EH, PARKER? LOOKS AS IF YOU'RE WARMING THE BENCH *ALONE* AGAIN!

YOU DECAYING *CRUD*--!

TSK! SUCH *LANGUAGE!*

YOU SHOULD HAVE YOUR MOUTH WASHED OUT-- WITH MY *CRIMSON DUST!*

IT WILL *CLEANSE* YOUR MIND OF ALL IMPURE THOUGHTS--

--AS WELL AS ROB YOU OF *CONSCIOUSNESS!*

DUST-- DRUGGED THIS TIME --GOTTA FIGHT IT--

--CAN'T--

--GIVE UP--

--UHHHHHHHH

EXCELLENT! THE *FINAL STAGE* OF MY REVENGE DRAWS NIGH! TIME TO *STRIKE* THIS SET--AND PREPARE THE *NEXT!*

MEANWHILE IN THE SOUTH BRONX TENAMENT APARTMENT OF THE **AYALA FAMILY**--

HECTOR--?

--AWILDA AYALA DISCOVERS HER BROTHER'S ABSENCE!

HIS BOOKS ARE ON THE BED -- HE TOLD ME HE'D BE **STUDYING** TONIGHT! ALRIGHT, LITTLE BROTHER-- I CAN'T WAIT TO HEAR YOUR EXCUSE THIS TIME!

BUT, AS THE HOURS PASS INTO MORNING...

NOT HOME YET -- NOT EVEN A PHONE CALL!

WHAT IF HE'S *HURT*, OR--

--WHAT IF HE'S GONE BACK ON HIS WORD AND EXPOSED HIMSELF TO *DANGER* AGAIN -- AS THE *WHITE TIGER*??

WHICH, OF COURSE, IS EXACTLY WHAT HECTOR AYALA'S **DONE!**

OH--MY HEAD! MUST'VE COLLIDED WITH THE POOL WALL!

THERE'S THE *TIGER*! THE MASTER MUST'VE *KILLED* HIM!

BUT THERE'S NO SIGN OF **CARRION** --OR **SPIDER-MAN**! WHY DIDN'T HE TAKE ME WITH HIM?

AFTER ALL, HE **PROMISED** ME THAT HE'D--

NO! HE WOULDN'T HAVE LEFT ME HERE TO BE FOUND BY THE POLICE IF HE HADN'T MEANT TO *RENEGE* ON HIS PROMISE!

¿Q-QUE PASA--?

BUT I'LL FOLLOW HIM - I KNOW WHERE HE'S TAKEN THE WALL-CRAWLER--AND *WHY!* I'LL FORCE HIM TO LIVE UP TO HIS PROMISE!

SI, SEÑOR-- AND YOU WILL LEAD *ME* TO YOUR MASTER AND EL HOMBRE ARAÑA!

WHILE, A VERY SHORT DISTANCE ACROSS ***CAMPUS...***

A PITY YOU CAN'T BE *CONSCIOUS* FOR THIS, PARKER--

--IT WOULD AWAKEN SO MANY FOND OLD *MEMORIES!*

IT WAS IN THIS VERY *LABORATORY* THAT I FIRST LAID EYES ON YOU! IT WAS HERE THAT PROFESSOR WARREN DID HIS GREATEST WORK! -- HERE WHERE GWEN STACY WAS *REBORN*--

--AND HERE THAT I FIRST CAME TO *LOATHE* THE NAME... *PETER PARKER!*

AND FOR HOW LONG I HAVE *HATED* YOU!

KNOWING THAT YOU WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE *MURDER* OF SWEET, GENTLE *GWEN STACY*--

--AND THAT BECAUSE HE HAD *DISCOVERED* YOUR SECRETS, YOU SOUGHT TO KILL *PROFESSOR WARREN* AS WELL!

I THINK HE *KNEW* HE WOULD BE KILLED-- AND SO HE INSURED THAT HIS HATRED FOR YOU WOULD NOT *DIE* WITH HIM!

BY *PASSING* IT ON... TO *ME!*

YOU MIGHT SAY THAT *I* LIVE-- BECAUSE *YOU* LIVE, PARKER!

I ONLY *EXIST* SO THAT YOU MIGHT BE *DESTROYED!*

THUS, I AM THE ULTIMATE *NEGATION* --THE *ANTI-LIFE!*

THE PART OF PROFESSOR WARREN THAT BECAME THE *JACKAL* WOULD HAVE BEEN *PROUD* OF HIS HANDIWORK!

HOW HIS *FORESIGHT* IS TO BE ADMIRED-- HIS *GENIUS* TO BE PRAISED!

FOR I MERELY CARRY OUT THE *WORK* HE BEGAN-- ALBEIT WITH A FEW FLOURISHES OF MY OWN INCORPORATED INTO THE GRAND DESIGN!

FOR I POSSESS A SENSE OF THE *MACABRE* THAT SURPASSES PROFESSOR WARREN'S-- EVEN AT HIS MOST *IMAGINATIVE!*

I AM THE LIVING INCARNATION OF THE MIND THAT GAVE LIFE TO THE *JACKAL*-- THAT DEADLY DARK ANGEL! YET, I AM *MORE!* I AM HATRED TAKEN BEYOND THE GRAVE! I AM... *CARRION!*

AND IT IS TIME, MY COSTUMED CAPTIVE-- THAT YOU *AWOKE!*

SLAP

TO FACE-- IN TREMBLING AND IN FEAR-- YOUR FINAL FEARSOME *FATE!*

UNHHH

S-STILL HERE UGLY? I WAS H-HOPING YOU WERE JUST A *B-BAD DREAM!*

WORSE! I AM YOUR WILDEST *NIGHTMARE* PERSONIFIED, PARKER!

I AM *VIOLENT MURDER* COME BACK TO HAUNT YOU! I AM THE *DEAD*--WALKING AGAIN! I AM *VENGEANCE*--*HATRED*--YOUR *JUDGE* AND YOUR *EXECUTIONER!*

B-BUT, *WHO* ARE YOU? AT LEAST TELL ME *THAT!*

FOOL! CAN IT BE THAT YOU STILL HAVE NOT *GUESSED* THE AWESOME TRUTH?

I AM THE LIVING CLONE OF PROFESSOR MILES WARREN!

AND IF THAT'S NOT ENOUGH, BE HERE NEXT ISH FOR...

TILL DEATH DO US PART!

40¢ CC

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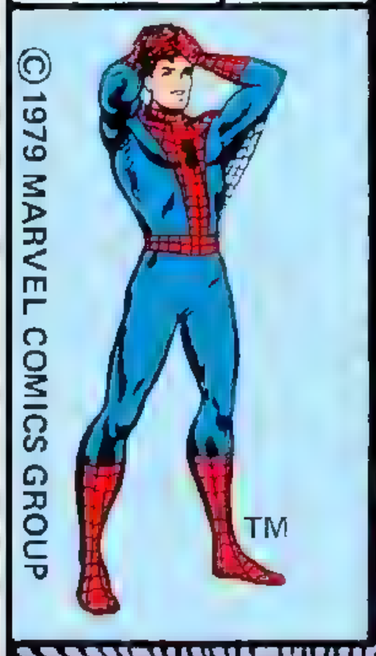

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PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN™

TM

While attending a demonstration in radiology, student PETER PARKER was bitten by a spider which had accidentally been exposed to RADIOACTIVE RAYS. Through a miracle of science, Peter soon found that he had GAINED the arachnid's powers...and had, in effect, become a human spider...

Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN!

BILL MANTLO / WRITER | JIM MOONEY / ARTIST | FRANK SPRINGER / INKER | A.L. MILGROM / EDITOR | I. WATANABE / LETTERER | MARIO SEN / COLORIST | JIM SHOOTER / ED-IN-CHIEF

TILL DEATH DO US PART!

WHEREIN PETER PARKER LEARNS THE SINISTER SECRET OF THE CADAVEROUS CARRION!

HAVEN'T YOU GUESSED YET, PARKER? I AM THE THE LIVING **CLONE** OF **PROFESSOR MILES WARREN!**

YOUR FORMER **BIOLOGY TEACHER!** THE MAN YOU **KILLED** WHEN--AS THE **JACKAL**--HE TRIED TO BRING YOU TO JUSTICE FOR THE MURDER OF **GWEN STACY!**

I HATE TO SHATTER YOUR **DAYDREAMS,** RAGS --BUT THAT'S THE MOST SCREWED UP **MISREADING** OF HISTORY I'VE EVER HEARD!

PROFESSOR WARREN HAD GONE **CRACKERS!** HE HIMSELF REALIZED THAT... JUST BEFORE THE **END!***

*AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #149--AL.

YOU'RE A ***LIAR,*** PARKER! I HAVE ALL OF PROFESSOR WARREN'S ***MEMORIES!***

ONLY UP TO THE MOMENT HE ***CLONED*** HIMSELF, UGLY!

OTHERWISE YOU'D KNOW THAT HE'D DISCOVERED HIS ***JACKAL*** IDENTITY WAS A PRODUCT OF HIS OWN ***INSANITY!***

THEN IT'S THAT INSANITY THAT WAS CLONED INTO ***ME!***

I WAS BORN ***HATING*** YOU, PARKER--AND THE DEATH OF THE MAN FROM WHOSE ***CELLS*** I AM SPRUNG HAS ONLY FUELED MY HATRED! DO YOU SEE THAT SEETHING ***CRUCIBLE?***

WITHIN ITS DEPTHS LIES THE ***INSTRUMENT*** OF MY REVENGE!

HOW DID I GET ***INTO*** THIS?

THAT QUESTION EVOKES MEMORIES--

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE? WHO ***TRASHED*** MY APARTMENT*?

SOMEONE WHO WOULD HAVE PREFERRED TRASHING ***YOU,*** PARKER!

OH, TIGER-- WE WERE SO WORRIED!

YOU REALLY OKAY, PETE?

*SEE ***SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN*** #28--AL.

*THERE WAS NO CLUE AS TO THE IDENTITY OF THE VANDAL--EXCEPT THE **CRIMSON GRAFFITI** SCRAWLED IN SOME EERIE KIND OF **RED DUST** ON THE APARTMENT WALL!*

The Dead Walk, Parker!

DOES WHOEVER DID THIS KNOW I'M ***SPIDER-MAN?***

*THAT QUESTION WAS SOON ANSWERED AS PETE AND HECTOR AYALA FIRST ENCOUNTERED THE MACABRE MENACE OF CARRION!**

NOW I'LL HAVE MY REVENGE ON ***YOU... SPIDER-MAN!***

DUST TO DUST...

*PPTSS #29--AL.

CARRION BEAT PETE TO A **PULP**--THEN VANISHED, ONLY TO **REAPPEAR** SOON AFTERWARDS...

OUR GAME RESUMES, PARKER --WITH **DEATH** THE FINAL VICTOR!

AND, WHILE SPIDEY BATTLED HIS ENIGMATIC FOE, HECTOR AYALA AS THE **WHITE TIGER**--WHO HAD ATTEMPTED TO **PROTECT** PETE--

--FOUND HIS OWN HANDS FULL, FIGHTING CARRION'S HENCHMAN...THE DEADLY **DARTER!**

CHANGING TO HIS **COSTUME**, OUR MYSTIFIED WALL-CRAWLER GAVE CHASE--THE TRAIL LEADING TO THE EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY **GYMNASIUM!**

CRASH!

A FITTING FINAL **RESTING PLACE**, ISN'T IT, PARKER?

FOR, AS YOUR DREAM OF **GRADUATION** WAS SMASHED FOR LACK OF **GYM CREDIT**--HERE TOO WILL YOUR **LIFE** COME TO AN END!

CARRION SEEMED TO KNOW AS MUCH ABOUT PETE AS PETE KNEW ABOUT HIMSELF--AND THE KNOWLEDGE WAS UNNERVING!

ALL OF THIS--ENGINEERED BY THE WARPED MIND OF A **DEAD MAN!** AND I STILL DON'T KNOW HOW--

HOW I KNOW YOUR EVERY **SECRET**, PARKER? YOUR EVERY **THOUGHT?**

TELEPATHY, YOU WITLESS FOOL!

COUPLED WITH EVERYTHING PROFESSOR WARREN HAD **LEARNED** OF YOU PRIOR TO HIS DEATH!

SHALL I TELL YOU HOW HE PREPARED FOR THE EVENTUALITY OF HIS **DEFEAT** ON THAT FATEFUL DAY, INSECT?

SHORTLY AFTER ARRANGING TO MEET YOU AT SHEA STADIUM--

"--HE EXTRACTED A **CELL SAMPLE** FROM HIMSELF AND INJECTED IT INTO A WAITING **CLONE CASKET!**

"THEN, AS THE **JACKAL**, HE WENT OFF TO CONFRONT YOU!

"HE NEVER **RETURNED!**

"THAT SINGLE **CELL** BEGAN TO DIVIDE--A **NEW** PROFESSOR WARREN BEGAN TO GROW WITHIN THE CASKET! BUT SOMETHING WENT **WRONG!** THE CASKET REFUSED TO OPEN--THE PROCESS **CONTINUED!** THE BODY REACHED **OLD AGE--DIED**--YET STILL THE FLUID KEPT IT **ALIVE!**

LORD IN HEAVEN--!

"AND THEN, AN UNSUSPECTING UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT BY THE NAME OF **RANDY VALE** STUMBLED INTO PROFESSOR WARREN'S LABORATORY AND UNSEALED THE **CLONE CASKET!**

WHO ARE YOU? **WHAT** ARE YOU?

I AM THE **CLONE** OF **PROFESSOR MILES WARREN!** I LIVE!

B-BUT PROFESSOR WARREN'S **DEAD**-- AND YOU DON'T LOOK ANYTHING LIKE HIM!

"THEN THE **TRUTH** DAWNED UPON ME!"

DEAD? HE WENT TO BATTLE **SPIDER-MAN** --HE MUST HAVE **LOST!** THAT IS WHY HE FAILED TO RE-TURN TO ME!

VALE--YOU WILL **SERVE** ME! ACCEPT AND I OFFER YOU **POWER!** REFUSE--AND I WILL **DESTROY** YOU!

I GUESS HE ACCEPTED, HUH?

THE SCARED RABBIT--HE HAD NO CHOICE! BUT HE HAS PROVEN **USEFUL!**

MONTHS HAD PASSED SINCE PROFESSOR WARREN'S DEATH! I HAD TO PICK UP WHERE HIS **MEMORIES** HAD ENDED!

I REMAINED HIDDEN WHILE **VALE** SOUGHT OUT THE IN-FORMATION I NEEDED!

DOES **HE** KNOW MY SECRET, TOO?

NO! I DID NOT TRUST HIM THAT FAR!

"HE MERELY REPORTED TO ME ABOUT YOUR MOVEMENTS AS **SPIDER-MAN!**

MASTER--YOU'RE **LEVITATING!**

"MEANWHILE, I TESTED MY GROWING **POWERS**--GIVEN ME BY MY EXTENDED STAY IN THE **CLONE CASKET!**

"I LEARNED THAT MY FORM COULD BE **REPELLENT** TO EVERYTHING **ORGANIC**--THAT I COULD **TELEPORT**--BECOME **INTANGIBLE** AT WILL!

"MY HORRIFIC NATURE REPELLED EVEN THE **ELEMENTS** --AND SLOWLY MY LATENT **TELEPATHIC** ABILITIES BEGAN TO COME INTO FOCUS!

"I EXERCISED INCREDIBLE POWER OVER EVERYTHING THAT EMBODIED--OR THAT HAD AT ONE TIME EMBODIED--**LIFE!**

YOU--YOU KILLED THAT **RAT**... MERELY BY TOUCHING IT!

"IN RETURN FOR HIS SERVICES, I HAD PROMISED VALE VAST **POWERS!**"

THIS **COSTUME?** IS THIS THE POWER OF WHICH YOU SPOKE?

NO, FOOL! AS **DARTER** YOU WILL MERELY BE IN A BETTER POSITION TO **WREST** THAT POWER--

--FROM **SPIDER-MAN** HIMSELF!

YOU--YOU WERE PROMISING HIM MY ***SPIDER-POWERS?*** YOU'RE MAD!

AM I? I KNOW FROM WHAT PROFESSOR WARREN ORIGINALLY LEARNED FROM HIS CLONE OF ***PETER PARKER***--*

--THAT THE ***RADIOACTIVE SPIDER*** THAT BIT YOU SUBTLY ALTERED THE MOLECULAR STRUCTURE OF YOUR ***BLOOD!***

*AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #149--AL.

THUS YOU GAINED THE ***POWERS*** AND THE PROPORTIONATE ***STRENGTH*** OF THAT SPIDER! TOO MUCH POWER FOR ***VALE!***

SO, WHILE YOU SLEPT-- I ***EXTRACTED*** A BLOOD SAMPLE--

--AND ***INJECTED*** IT INTO THIS PROTOPLASMIC ***PRE-CLONE...*** A PRIMITIVE, AMOEBIC ANCESTOR OF ***PETER PARKER!***

IT HAS ALL YOUR ***POWER,*** PARKER--BUT NONE OF YOUR ***HUMANITY,*** FOR THE SAME PROCESS THAT CREATED ***ME*** ALSO GAVE LIFE TO...***IT!***

YOU'RE ***INSANE!*** YOU-- ***ARRGH!***

ZZZZ

THOSE ***ELECTROSHACKLES*** WILL HOLD YOU AS YOUR SPIDER-POWERED ***PROTOTYPE*** SLITHERS FROM ITS VAT, PARKER--GUIDED TO YOU BY ITS OWN PRIMITIVE ***SPIDER-SENSE!***

AND ONCE IT REACHES YOU--***INSTINCT*** WILL GUIDE ITS ACTIONS--PURE, PRIMEVAL, ***KILLER-INSTINCT!***

HA HA HA HA HA

C-CARRION, YOU W-WON'T GET AWAY WITH THIS!

WHO'S TO STOP ME, PARKER? YOU?

SLURP

I THINK NOT! FOR, EVEN AS WE SPEAK, THE *SPIDER-AMOEBA* SLITHERS CLOSER ...CLOSER!

THERE! ITS SPIDER-SENSE GUIDES IT TOWARDS YOU! IT SENSES THAT IT IS PART OF YOU, PARKER--

--AND IT WANTS TO BECOME ONE WITH YOU AGAIN!

CAN YOU APPRECIATE THE IRONY OF YOUR SITUATION, PARKER? YOU AND THE SPIDER-AMOEBA ARE ALMOST... *BROTHERS!*

THE AMOEBA'S TIPPED THE ELECTRO-SLAB!

BUT THEN-- SO WERE CAIN AND ABEL!

IT'S SLOWLY OOZING OVER ME-- CRUSHING ME WITH ITS BULK-- TENDRILS SLITHERING TOWARDS MY FACE!

IF I WASN'T SO SCARED-- I'D BE *SICK!*

SUDDENLY, A DISTRAUGHT FIGURE APPEARS IN THE DOORWAY...

DARTER!

YOU'VE BETRAYED ME, CARRION! I SERVED YOU FAITHFULLY, YET YOU GAVE SPIDER-MAN'S POWERS TO THAT--THAT ***THING*** INSTEAD OF ME!

I'M WEAK--I ADMIT IT-- A SNIVELLING COWARD! BUT WITH ***SPIDER-POWERS*** I WOULDN'T HAVE HAD TO FEAR ANYTHING EVER AGAIN!

YET, I DON'T NEED THEM TO REVENGE MYSELF ON YOU, CARRION! YOU'LL PAY FOR USING ME! YOU'LL PAY!

DOG! THOUGH I CREATED THE BLASTER YOU NOW TURN UPON ME--

--NOT EVEN THAT WEAPON CAN HARM ONE WHO CAN TURN INTANGIBLE AT WILL!

A PITY YOU CANNOT SO EASILY AVOID THE MUTATED BACTERIAL DUST WHICH NOW INFECTS YOU WITH...***THE RED DEATH!***

NO--PLEASE! I'M SORRY! DON'T-- ***EEYAGGH!***

AS DARTER--HORRIFIED--CLAWS AT THE CRIMSON DUST COVERING HIS FACE...

...HIS WEAPON STRIKES THE LABORATORY FLOOR, BLASTING A SHAFT OF ENERGY AT THE SLAB UPON WHICH PETER PARKER IS HELD, SHATTERING THE POWER UNIT--

SHRAK

--THUS RENDERING THE ELECTRO-SHACKLES INOPERATIVE!

THE CURRENTS OFF--I CAN FREE MYSELF!

SNAP

BACK OFF, BLOOD-BROTHER I'M REMOVING MYSELF FROM THE MENU!

VALE! CARRION--WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO HIM?!

REGARD IT AS A PREVIEW OF COMING ATTRACTIONS, PARKER!

YOUR OWN **FATE**--GRAPHICALLY FORESHADOWED!

CH-CHOKING--GETTING HARD TO BREATHE!

F-FEEL COLD ALL OVER--CAN'T STOP SHIVERING!

I--I'M SORRY, CARRION! HONESTLY, I...

OH MY GOD--STOP THIS FROM HAPPENING TO ME!

PLEASE DON'T MAKE ME **DIE**...!

CARRION, YOU FILTHY MURDERER! YOU'RE WORSE THAN PROFESSOR WARREN EVER WAS--EVEN WHEN HE BECAME THE JACKAL!

I DON'T KNOW IF THE UNLIVING CLONE OF A ***DEAD MAN*** CAN BE BROUGHT TO JUSTICE...

...BUT I AIM TO TRY--

--JUST AS SOON AS I GET RID OF YOUR PLAY-DOUGH PLAYMATE!

WHOOSH!

...STARTING WITH THAT SWEET, GENTLE WOMAN WHO BROUGHT YOU UP--***MAY PARKER!***

INSECT--YOU HAVEN'T A PRAYER! BUT TO INCREASE YOUR AGONY--

--I THINK YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT I PLAN TO KILL YOUR LOVED ONES AFTER I SLAY YOU...

THAK

MISTER, I TAKE A LOT FROM THE FOUL MOUTHS OF CRAZIES LIKE YOU--

--BUT NO ONE THREATENS MY ***AUNT MAY***...NOT WHILE SPIDER-MAN LIVES!

THEN COUNT THE SECONDS OF LIFE REMAINING TO YOU, PARKER--ON THE FINGERS OF ONE HAND!

YOU SLIME-SUCKING CADAVER! YOU CRUMMY *CORPSE!*

I'VE LISTENED TO YOU DEBASE EVERYONE FROM THE MAN WHO GAVE YOU LIFE, TO THE MOST DECENT WOMAN WHO EVER LIVED!

AND I'M NOT TAKING ANYMORE! YOU GOT THAT? *UNGHH!*

YOU'LL TAKE WHAT YOU ARE DEALT, PARKER-- AS LONG AS I HOLD ALL THE CARDS!

¡OYÉ! COMÓ ES--?

I FOLLOWED THE SCENT OF DEATH FROM THE GYM-- WHERE CARRION LEFT ME UNCONSCIOUS!*

*SEE LAST ISH --AL.

"BUT HAVE I ARRIVED ONLY TO SEE SPIDER-MAN DESTROYED BY CARRION'S CREATURE?!"

SHUMPH!

GLECCH!

CARRION--CALL OFF YOUR CREATION --OR ANSWER TO THE *WHITE TIGER!*

PRESUMPTUOUS FOOL! THE ONLY ANSWER I DEIGN TO GIVE--

SWOK

--IS THE BACK OF MY HAND!

¡CARAJO! I--I KNEW HIS STRENGTH WAS ENOUGH TO OVERPOWER MY ALTER-EGO... HECTOR AYALA--

--BUT NOW HE BATS ACROSS THE ROOM ONE WHO HAS FOUGHT **SPIDER-MAN**-- THE **SONS OF THE TIGER**-- THE **JACK OF HEARTS** TO A STANDSTILL!

AND MY PASSAGE HAS STARTED A **FIRE**--

--CUTTING ME OFF FROM CARRION...AND SPIDER-MAN!

BLAST YOU, TIGER-- YOU HAVE DESTROYED MY **CLONE CASKET!**

NOW I SHALL HAVE TO BUILD IT ANEW IN ORDER TO REPRODUCE MYSELF!

IF--IF I DON'T BUST OUT--I'LL SUFFOCATE!

BUT IT'S AMORPHOUS-- SHAPELESS--IT YIELDS WITH MY EVERY BLOW!

C'MON, PARKER-- YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE A GENIUS! **THINK** YOUR WAY OUT OF THIS ONE!

YES! USE THAT INGENUITY THAT RAISED PETER PARKER TO THE HEAD OF HIS CLASS!

CRIPES! CARRION'S MIND-READING AGAIN!

TAUNTING ME--

--HOPING TO DISTRACT ME WHILE HIS SPIDER-AMOEBA FINISHES ME OFF! WHAT A WAY TO GO--

--DIGESTED BY A PROKARYOTIC PRE-CLONE-- SMOTHERED BY AN ANTISOCIAL CELL!

IT--IT'S GRIPPED THE FLOOR WITH ITS PSEUDOPODS-- ANCHORED ITSELF TO PRESS ITS FULL WEIGHT DOWN ON ME! THIS IS IT!

I EITHER SUCCUMB AND LET MY EPITAPH READ: "HERE LIES SPIDER-MAN...KILLED BY ***OSMOSIS!***"

OR I FLEX AND GIVE MY MUSCLES THE WORKOUT THEY'VE BEEN YEARNING FOR EVER SINCE CARRION'S UGLY MUG FIRST APPEARED ON THE SCENE!

EXERTING HIS SPECTACULAR SPIDER-STRENGTH TO THE UTMOST, SPIDER-MAN HEAVES THE SPIDER-AMOEBA FROM HIM--

--AND LEAPS FROM HARM'S WAY BEFORE THE UNICELLULAR CLONE STRIKES THE FLOOR AGAIN.

IT'S ALL YOURS, RAGS-- AND REMEMBER WHAT YOU SAID ABOUT ITS ***KILLER-INSTINCT!*** IT'LL GO AFTER WHATEVER'S CLOSEST--

--AND YOU'RE ***IT!***

SHLOOP

NO! I CREATED IT-- GAVE IT LIFE! IT CAN'T...!

STAY BACK-- I COMMAND YOU!

¡QUÉ PASA! WHAT'S HAPPENING! I--I CAN'T SEE!

SMOKE'S OBLITERATED MY VIEW OF SPIDER-MAN AND CARRION--AND THE FLAMES ARE GETTING HOTTER!

THERE'S NO WAY I CAN GET THROUGH TO THEM-- NOT ALIVE, AT ANY RATE!

CRASH!

FIRE'S BACKED ME AGAINST THE LAB WALL! NO WAY I --WAIT! THE WINDOW!

÷COUGH÷ ÷CHOKE÷

I--I MADE IT... SINGED--BUT IN ONE PIECE! BUT WHAT ABOUT EL HOMBRE ARANA? I'D BETTER ALERT THE--

--POLICE! CARAJO-- WHO SAYS YOU CAN NEVER FIND A COP WHEN YOU NEED ONE?

TIGER--WHAT'S GOING ON IN THERE? IS IT CARRION--?

SÍ, LT. D'ANGELO! HE ATTACKED PETER PARKER AND WAS IN TURN ATTACKED BY SPIDER-MAN!

NOW CARRION AND THE WALL-CRAWLER FIGHT...

"...TO THE DEATH!"

NOT SO PLEASANT BEING ON THE RECEIVING END, IS IT, RAGS?

FOOLISH INSECT! MY CREATURE MAY BE BEYOND MY CONTROL--

--BUT IT CANNOT HARM ME...

NOT WHEN I CAN LEVITATE BEYOND ITS GRASP. THUS, BECOMING ***INTANGIBLE***--

--I CAN WATCH YOUR IMMINENT DESTRUCTION SAFE FROM HARM! EH--WHAT? THE AMOEBA'S FLAGELLUM--IT GRIPS ME!

B-BUT--THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! I HAVE RENDERED MYSELF IMMATERIAL! IT SHOULD HAVE PASSED RIGHT ***THROUGH*** ME!

EXCEPT FOR THE FACT THAT THE SPIDER-AMOEBA WAS CREATED THROUGH THE SAME PROCESS WHICH GAVE YOU LIFE, CARRION!

THOUGH CLONED FROM ONE OF MY CELLS IT SEEMS YOU ***TWO*** HAVE A LOT MORE IN COMMON --INCLUDING THE ABILITY TO NEGATE EACH OTHER'S POWERS!

NO--THIS ISN'T HOW I PLANNED IT!

IT NEVER IS, PASTE-FACE!

SLOWLY, INEXORABLY, THE SPIDER-AMOEBA DRAWS THE CADAVEROUS CARRION INTO ITS PROTOPLASMIC FORM!

HIS DEADLY **DEATH-TOUCH** FAILING HIM FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MEMORY, CARRION BEGINS TO PANIC--CLAWING DESPERATELY TO FREE HIMSELF FROM HIS CREATION!

T-THE MINDLESS CLONE IS ENGULFING ME! DRAGGING ME INTO ITSELF! ABSORBING ME!

I--I MUST BREAK ITS GRIP!

ONLY THEN CAN I TELEPORT MYSELF AWAY FROM HERE!

ARMS FLAILING, SCRABBLING FOR A HANDHOLD, CARRION'S FINGERS CLOSE ABOUT--

...FOR THE SPIDER-AMOEBA--IT IS UPON MEE

CAN'T REACH HIM THOUGH THE FLAMES--

EEEEEEEEEEE

--THE WHITENENED SKULL OF RANDY VALE!

DARTER! YOU COULD HAVE HELPED ME!

--BUT I DESTROYED YOU, AND NOW I'M **BEYOND** HELP...

--AND I'M NOT SURE I WANT TO! CARRION CAN'T REALLY ***DIE***... SINCE HE NEVER REALLY LIVED!

AND I THINK PROFESSOR WARREN WOULD'VE WANTED IT TO END THIS WAY!

BUT THE SMOKE'S GETTING TO ME, GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE!

SKRASH!

FIRE WILL DESTROY ***LAB***-- AND ANY TRACES OF CARRION ***AND*** VALE! NO ONE WILL KNOW THE TRUTH--EXCEPT ME, THAT IS!

AH--MADE IT, AND HEY--IT'S SNOWING!

FAR OUT!

THAT'S THE BEST WAY--TO WIPE AWAY THE HORROR OF CARRION! TO LOSE IT IN CLEAN, SOOTHING, SHIFTING ***SNOW!***

HIDDEN BEHIND A WINDSWEPT SNOWDRIFT, EXHAUSTED TO HIS VERY SOUL, OUR WEARY WEB-SLINGER LETS THE MEMORY OF THE PAST FEW DAYS DRAIN FROM HIM!

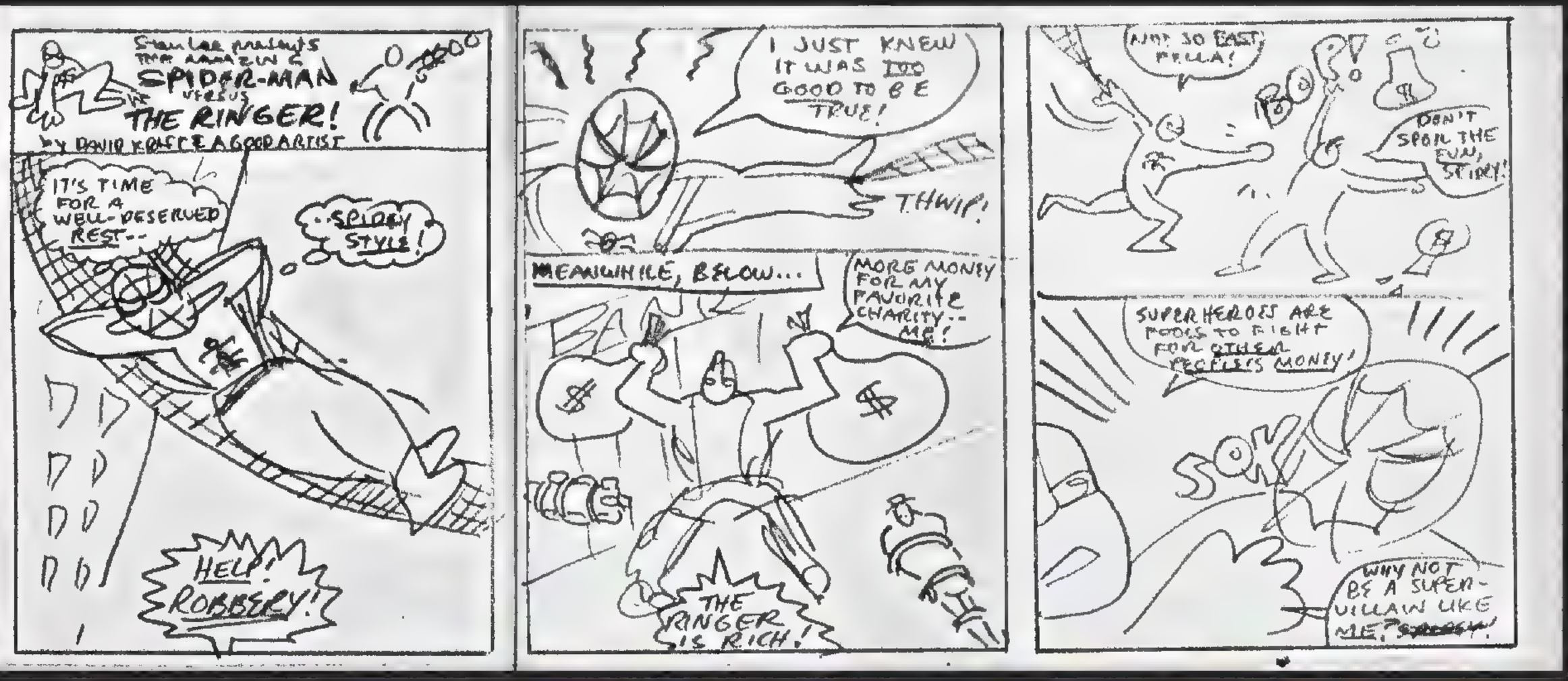
TOMORROW'S WORLD WILL BE COVERED IN VIRGIN WHITE, SYMBOLIZING PERHAPS A NEW BEGINNING...

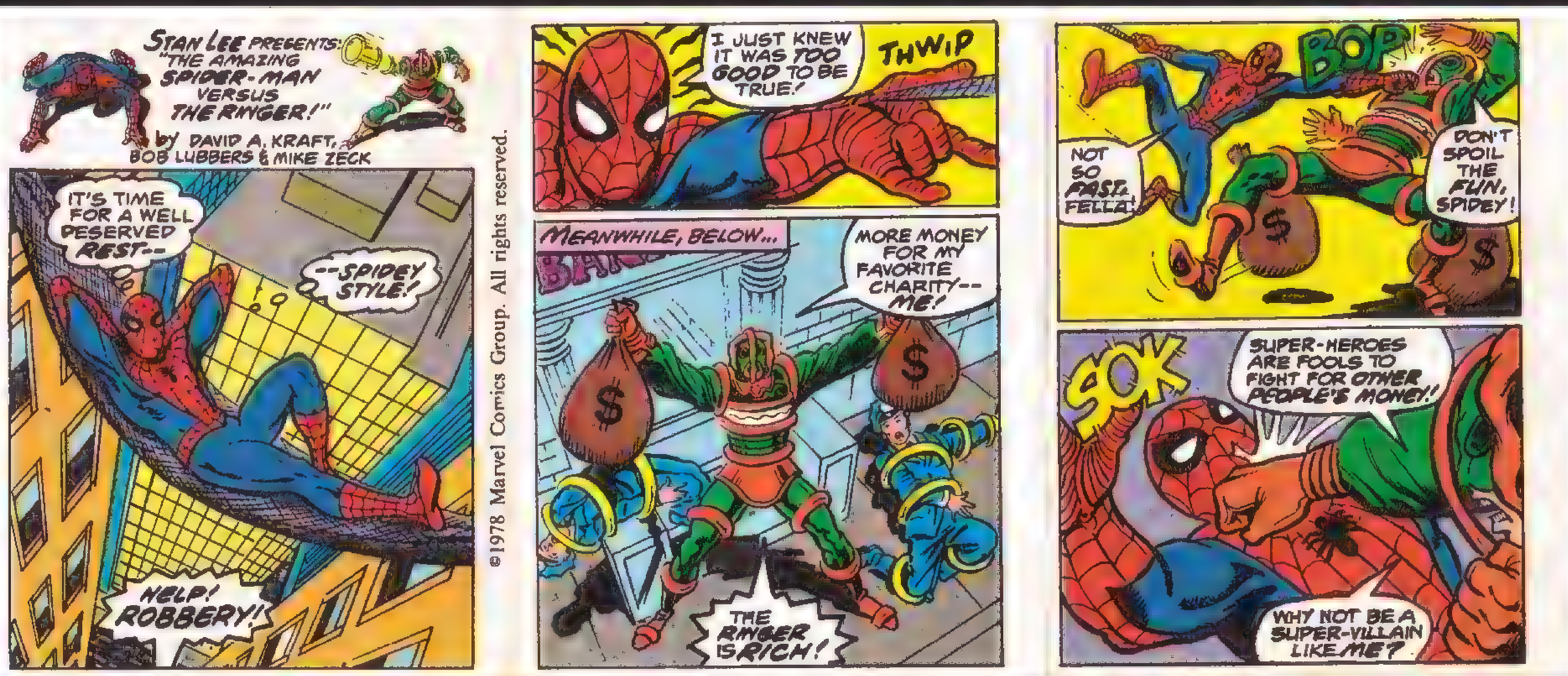
*...OR JUST--**THE END!***

NEXT **NIGHT OF THE IGUANA!**

...PLUS PETER PARKER'S FIRST DAY OF GRADUATE SCHOOL!

Writer David Anthony Kraft, penciler Bob Lubbers and inker Mike Zeck created this short 1978 Spider-Man comic strip, "The Amazing Spider-Man versus The Ringer!," as a giveaway item included with PEZ candy.


Stan Lee presents the Amazing SPIDER-MAN versus THE RINGER!
by DAVID KRAFT & A GOOD ARTIST
IT'S TIME FOR A WELL-DESERVED REST--
--SPIDEY STYLE!
HELP! ROBBERY!
I JUST KNEW IT WAS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE!
THWIP!
MEANWHILE, BELOW...
MORE MONEY FOR MY FAVORITE CHARITY-- ME!
THE RINGER IS RICH!
NOT SO FAST, FELLA!
BOP!
DON'T SPOIL THE FUN, STIRY!
SUPERHEROES ARE FOOLS TO FIGHT FOR OTHER PEOPLE'S MONEY!
SOK
WHY NOT BE A SUPER-VILLAIN LIKE ME? SCREECH!


STAN LEE PRESENTS: "THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN VERSUS THE RINGER!"
by DAVID A. KRAFT, BOB LUBBERS & MIKE ZECK
IT'S TIME FOR A WELL DESERVED REST--
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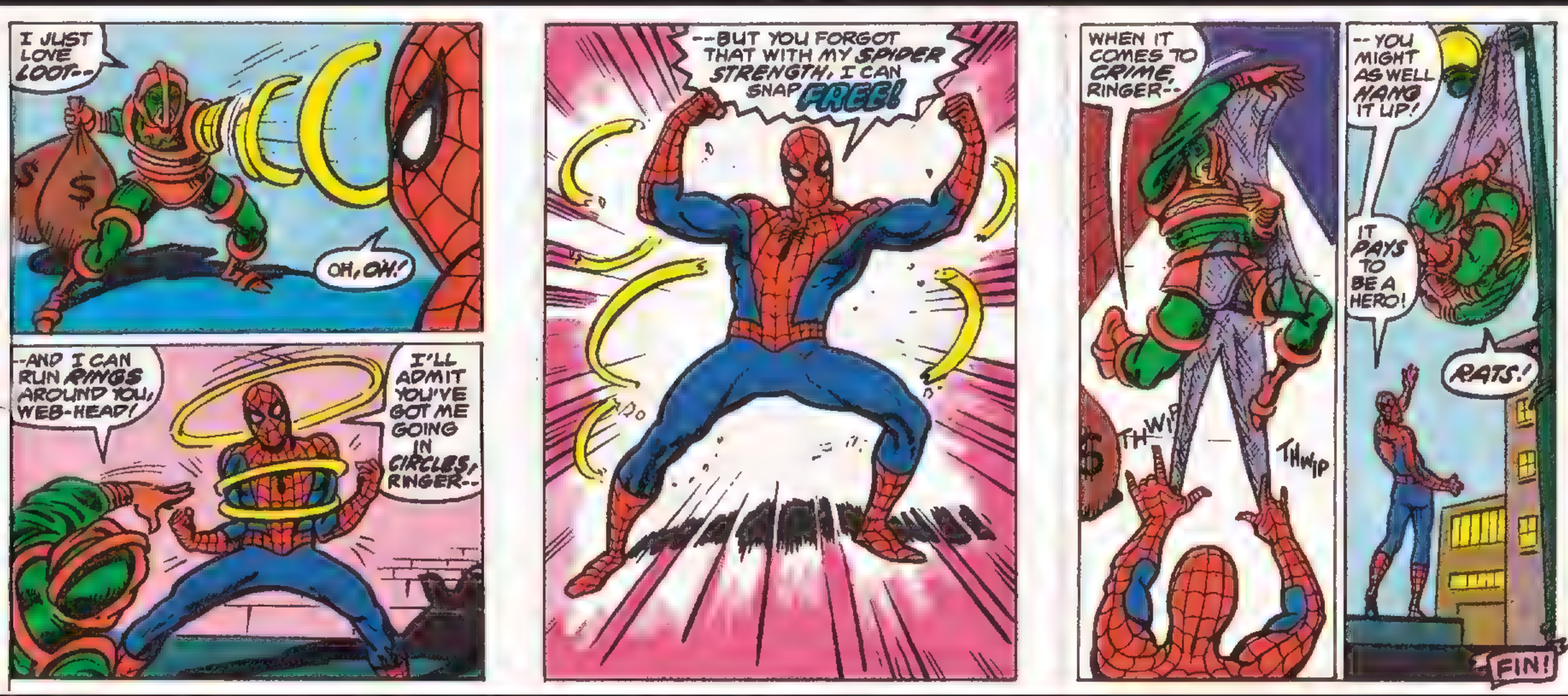
SUPER-HEROES ARE FOOLS TO FIGHT FOR OTHER PEOPLE'S MONEY!
WHY NOT BE A SUPER-VILLAIN LIKE ME?

Courtesy David Anthony Kraft

Kraft also did rough pencil layouts for the story pitting Spidey against The Ringer, a villain from his run on *The Defenders* who would next appear in *The Spectacular Spider-Man* #58.

I JUST LOVE LOOT--
OH, OH!
--AND I CAN RUN RINGS AROUND YOU, WEB-HEAD!
I'LL ADMIT YOU'VE GOT ME GOING IN CIRCLES, RINGER--
--BUT YOU FORGOT THAT WITH MY SPIDER STRENGTH I CAN SNAP FREE!
WHEN IT COMES TO CRIME, RINGER--
--YOU MIGHT AS WELL HANG IT UP!
IT PAYS TO BE A HERO!
THWIP THWIP
RATS!
FIN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IT PAYS TO BE A HERO!
THWIP
THWIP
RATS!
FIN!

Courtesy David Anthony Kraft

Marvel Comics subscription ad, featuring Spider-Man, from May 1979 titles
art by Marie Severin

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The Spectacular Spider-Man #25, page 4 original art
by Jim Mooney & Frank Springer

AND THE HAND-- THEY SAY-- IS QUICKER THAN THE EYE!
DUST?! HE'S THROWIN' DUST AT US--?
ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE YOU TO ONE OF THE MOST-TRAVELLED OF MANKIND'S ENEMIES! IT HAS BEEN CALLED BY MANY NAMES--THE POX... PLAGUE... PESTILENCE--
--BUT I PREFER THE RED DEATH!
C-CAN'T... BREATHE-- CHOKING!!
AND...
I-I DON'T KNOW HOW YA DID THAT, CREEP--BUT ONE MORE STEP AN' YOU'RE A DEAD MAN!
HOW PERCEPTIVE OF YOU, MY FRIEND!
KRAK!
I--I WARNED YA!
OH, MY GOD! THE-- THE BULLET IT--
--IT WENT RIGHT THROUGH YA... AN' YOU'RE STILL COMING!

-Jim Mooney

Courtesy HeritageAuctions.com

The Spectacular Spider-Man #27, page 17 original art
by Frank Miller & Frank Springer

THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN
27
AND HIS PLANS DON'T CALL FOR AN EXTRA PASSENGER!
GOOD GOD! THE MARAUDER'S JUST INSANE ENOUGH TO PULL THIS OFF!
WROOSHH!
I'VE GOT TO STOP HIM--BUT THE BOMB-DROID IS ALREADY ROCKETING TOWARDS ME!
BUT, IF I CAN'T SHAKE THESE GOONS IN TIME...?
VROOSHHH!
SPIDER-MAN! ON THE WINDOW OUTSIDE! HE'S OUR ONLY CHANCE!
SPIDER-SENSE TING-LING! SOMETHING'S ABOUT TO HAPPEN! BUT--?
AND HEAVEN HELP US-- HE STILL CAN'T SEE!!
KRASH!
OBOY!
HIGH OVER A DOOMED CITY, SPIDER-MAN BEGINS A SLOW SPIRALLING FALL TO HIS DEATH!
NEXT: ASHES TO ASHES!
31

Courtesy HeritageAuctions.com

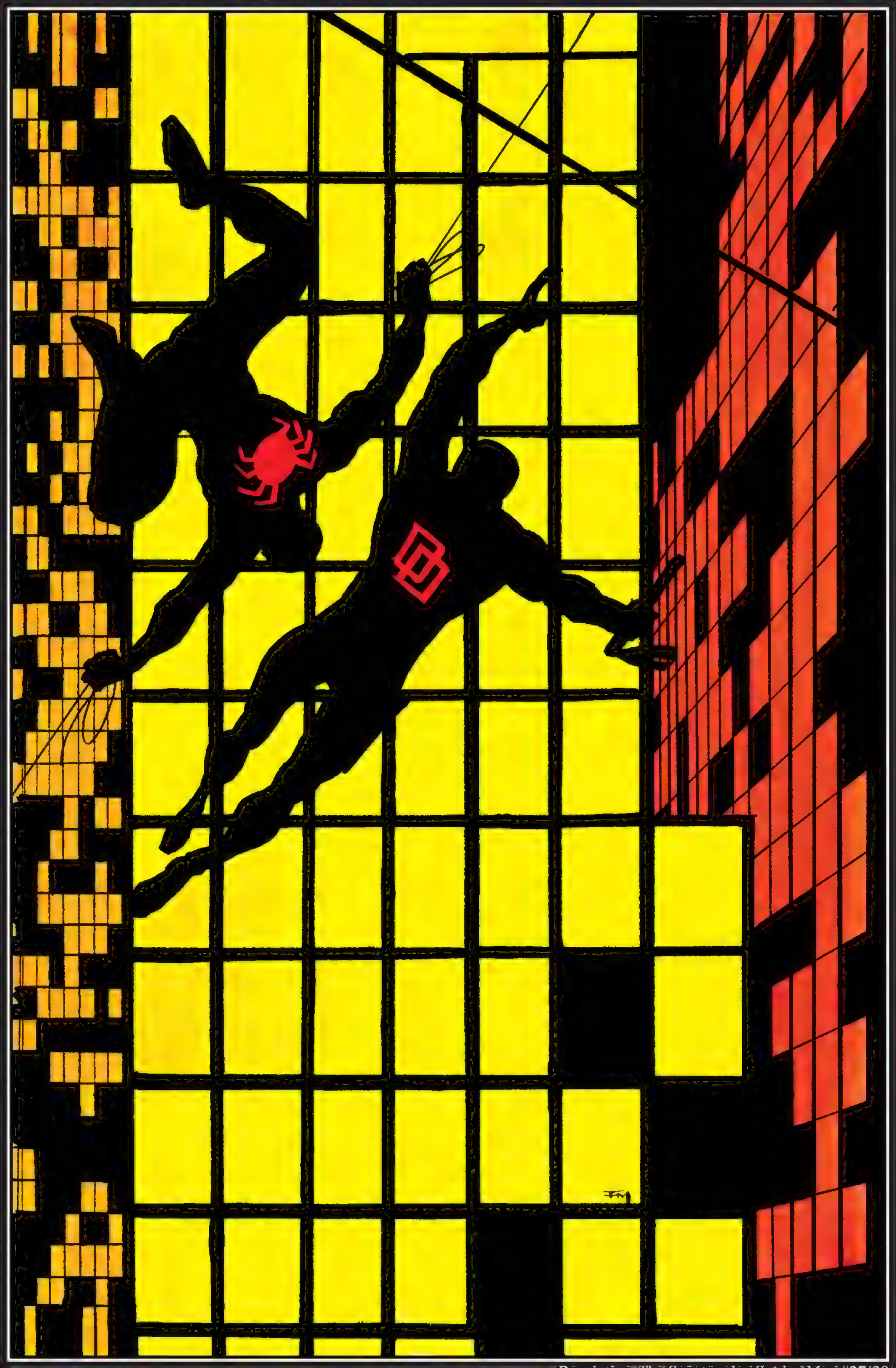
The Spectacular Spider-Man #30, page 17 original art
by Jim Mooney & Frank Springer

SPECTACULAR SPIDER-
30
XEROX
STAN
DUE DATE
NEG
POS
30
I AM VIOLENT MURDER COME BACK TO HAUNT YOU! I AM THE DEAD--WALKING AGAIN! I AM VENGEANCE--HATRED--YOUR JUDGE AND YOUR EXECUTIONER!
B-BUT, WHO ARE YOU? AT LEAST TELL ME THAT!
FOOL! CAN IT BE THAT YOU STILL HAVE NOT GUESSED THE AWESOME TRUTH?
I AM THE LIVING CLONE OF PROFESSOR MILES WARREN!
AND IF THAT'S NOT ENOUGH, BE HERE NEXT ISH FOR...
TILL DEATH DO US PART!
JIM MOONEY 30

Courtesy HeritageAuctions.com

Spider-Man and Daredevil Special Edition #1

(March 1984) cover, by Frank Miller



Reprinting *The Spectacular Spider-Man* #27-28

Spider-Man and Daredevil Special Edition #1 introduction, by Jim Salicrup (below) and (following pages) new story pages added between issue #27, pages 4 and 5, recapping the events of issue #25-26.

Stan Lee PRESENTS:

SPIDER-MAN® AND DAREDEVIL®

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Ashes to Ashes 31

INTRODUCTION

"Frank Miller's Coming to Town"
by **Jim Salicrup**

It seems like it was just last Tuesday that as an Assistant Editor I was stationed outside Associate Editor **Jim Shooter's** office when the surprisingly young and talented **Frank Miller** first waltzed through the hallowed halls of mighty Marvel! Probably was high noon, too! It's difficult to believe that was really several years ago. I still remember Big Jim's excitement and enthusiasm as he poured over, for the first time, Frank's art samples. Jim knew, even then, that he had come upon a major new talent. Almost immediately Jim placed tremendous confidence and faith in this newcomer and spent many hours encouraging and guiding Frank. It wasn't long before Jim was so taken with Frank's ability to tell someone else's story in pictures that Jim suggested that Frank should begin plotting his own stories.

Later, working closely with Editor **Denny O'Neil**, Frank created what is now comic art history. Frank's collaborations with **Klaus Jansen** on **DAREDEVIL** and with **Chris Claremont** and **Joe Rubinstein** on **WOLVERINE** are already considered some of the most outstanding comic book achievements of the eighties!

Within this deluxe Special Edition we're proud to re-present the first two stories Frank penciled featuring the crimson-clad Man Without Fear. Collectors are already paying premium prices for **PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN** issues 26 and 27, which originally published these tales. This Special Edition allows serious comic art students an inexpensive look at those issues which featured the nascent, yet already distinctive, Miller style!

We've also added new pages, scripted by **Bill Mantlo**, to fill in readers on what came before this issue's dramatic events! **Mark Bright** and **Vince Colleta** illustrated this special flashback sequence which due to schedule reasons neither Frank Miller nor **Frank Springer** could handle. Frank, however, did manage to find time to pencil and ink this Special Edition's stunning covers and therein lies a tale! Recently I ran into Frank, it may have been last Tuesday, at the Forbidden Planet comics shop in Manhattan. Despite his enormous success Frank hasn't changed much personally. He's still as enthusiastic and concerned about his work as ever. In fact, Frank revealed that he had completed two different covers for this Special Edition. Unhappy with the results he discarded them and started over from scratch! He also had many ideas on how best to prepare this Special Edition. From suggesting the type of paper on which to *print* to offering unpublished pin-ups (which unfortunately couldn't be located before press time, but will be coming your way some time in the future), Frank was incredibly helpful. We hope you enjoy the results!

SALICRUP

THE MARAUDER IS ONE OF MY OLDEST ENEMIES!

YEAH? WELL, HE'S ADDED HIMSELF TO *MY* ROGUE'S GALLERY NOW!

" THE FIRST ANYONE KNEW THAT THE MARAUDER WAS BACK WAS WHEN HIS ANDROID *TRI-MAN* HIJACKED A TRUCKLOAD OF NUCLEAR FUEL!

DANGER

DAF

EINA

" HIS NEXT APPEARANCE WAS IN MID-MANHATTAN...

EITHER SOMEBODY NEEDS ONE HECKUVA *MUFFLER JOB*--

--OR THEY'VE MOVED *CAPE CANAVERAL* TO MANHATTAN!

VRROARRRR

SOMEHOW I DON'T THINK EITHER IS THE CASE!

AND IT LOOKS LIKE I'M RIGHT!

COSTUMED GUNSELS POURING FROM THAT TRUCK--FOLLOWING A BIRD-SHAPED *BUZZ-BOMB* INTO THE *CITICORP BUILDING!*

SPIDER-MAN! NOW WE'RE IN FOR IT!

VROOSH

KROOM

THEN WHY DON'T YOU JUST POINT OUT YOUR *LEADER,* CHUCKLES?

I ALWAYS DID PREFER *QUALITY* TO *QUANTITY!!*

"IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE I DID FIND THE GANG'S LEADER--"

Writer: Bill Mantlo
Penciler: Mark Bright
Inker: Vince Colletta
Letterer: Rick Parker
Colorist: John Tartaglione
Color & Art Restoration: Michael Kelleher

"--BUT, THEN, HE DID HAVE A SPLASHY WAY OF ANNOUNCING HIS PRESENCE!"

THAT METALLIC-LOOKING FLYING BIRD-THING THAT BUSTED INTO THE CITICORP BUILDING...

BWAWHROOM!

IT WAS A BOMB!!!

BUT NO ORDINARY BOMB! SOMETHING'S HAPPENING IN THERE! THE "BOMB" SEEMS TO BE TRANSFORMING ITSELF FROM BIRD--

--TO... MAN!

"I DIDN'T KNOW IT THEN, BUT I'D JUST WITNESSED THE MASKED MARAUDER'S *TRI-MAN* IN ALL *THREE* OF ITS INCARNATIONS...

"...*BOMBDROID, BIRDROID, MANDROID*...

"OH, YEAH--AND *STRONG!*

"STILL, GIVEN TIME I MIGHT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO MAUL THE MANDROID--IF ITS *MAKER* HADN'T SUDDENLY ARRIVED!

HEY, BALDY--MIND IF I ASK A PERSONAL QUESTION...LIKE *WHO* PULLS YOUR STRINGS?!

MY TRI-MAN CANNOT REPLY, SPIDER-MAN--BUT PERHAPS *I* CAN PROVIDE THE ANSWER YOU SEEK!

HOLY SMOKES! YOU'RE...

THE *MASKED MARAUDER*, YOU MISBEGOTTEN MISCREANT!

AND I NEED ONLY MY RE-CREATED *TRI-MAN* AND MY ALL-POWERFUL *OPTI-BLASTS* TO MAINTAIN MY POSITION AS *BIG M*, LEADER OF THE *MAGGIA*--

--AND TO SNUFF OUT, ONCE AND FOR ALL, A SNIVELLING NUISANCE SUCH AS *YOU* HAVE BECOME!

TH-THAT BLAST--HITTING MY *EYES*! I-I CAN'T *SEE*! *I'M BLIND!!!*

BLIND? JUST LIKE *ME!*

THE MARAUDER LET HIS MANDROID HAVE A FIELD DAY WITH ME THEN!

" AND, UNABLE TO SEE, THERE WASN'T A WHOLE LOT I COULD DO ABOUT IT!

" THEY MIGHT HAVE FINISHED ME THEN AND THERE, IF NOT FOR THE SUDDEN ARRIVAL OF...

THE *POLICE!* MARAUDER, YOU'VE TAKEN TOO LONG! THE *COPS* ARE HERE!

THEN TAKE WHAT CURRENCY YOU CAN! MY *TRI-MAN* WILL ENSURE OUR ESCAPE!

AS FOR *SPIDER-MAN,* I THINK IT CAN SAFELY BE SAID THAT HE WILL NEVER BOTHER US AGAIN!

" SO THE MARAUDER GOT AWAY...

FOR THE LUVVA MIKE--*LOOK OUT!*

YRRRRRR

" ... AND I STAGGERED OUT OF THERE...

" ... GOING FORTH *BLIND* INTO THE NIGHT!"

The Greatest Spider-Man and Daredevil Team-Ups (1996) TPB cover
by Mike Wieringo, Klaus Janson & Kevin Tinsley

Reprinting *The Amazing Spider-Man* #16, 396; *Daredevil* #270; *Marvel Team-Up* #56, 73; *The Spectacular Spider-Man* #26-28, 219

GREAT THINGS COME IN TWOS

BY RALPH MACCHIO

(FROM *THE GREATEST SPIDER-MAN AND DAREDEVIL TEAM-UPS* TPB, 1996)

Back in the halcyon days of comics when characters teaming up was uncommon, two naturals were Spider-Man and Daredevil—Web-head and Hornhead, as we affectionately refer to them. Their meetings never seemed to be forced or contrived. And neither character outshone the other when they occupied the same panel. That last statement strikes a certain welcome chord within me because I've often felt that Spider-Man came off second-best in his pairings with other Marvel heroes. It's a funny thing, considering that the ol' webspinner is the most popular single character in all of comics—and deservedly so. Yet, he somehow loses stature—becomes less than he is—when teamed up with such heavyweights as Captain America, Thor or the Silver Surfer. He comes into the story, hangs upside down by his web, cracks a few jokes, and appears generally ineffectual. At least that's how it strikes me. But that simply isn't the case when he finds himself allied with the scarlet swashbuckler—Daredevil.

I think this says something seminal about the two characters and their world. They're loners. No doubt about it. DD and Spidey function best in the urban environment of Marvel New York against mid- to lower-power level super villains—and, of course, crime lords. That may seem an obvious observation, but it's important. With Moon Knight's passing, we're down to precious few super heroes who don't concern themselves with the loftier matter of preventing Earth's annihilation every other week. And that's one reason it's so refreshing to read the adventures of the Man Without Fear and the Amazing Arachnid; they get their hands dirty on the streets, cleaning up the messes our other, highfalutin' heroes often overlook. And for that, ya gotta love 'em. Perhaps that's why they work so well in tandem. But there must be more to it. Other factors unite our two spandex sensations. Although DD has been a trifle less so since the renowned Frank Miller period, both characters are known for their irreverence and wisecracking. They're two of the quickest wits in comicdom. And, naturally, their jokes serve a greater purpose when they're engaged in life-and-death situations: it drives their opponents to distraction. And each of them is a startlingly nimble acrobat, which makes them an artist's delight. Certainly, in attitude, super-abilities and fighting styles, they are very much the same animal. And I should know, because it's been my privilege to have edited both characters. Is either superior to the other? In a knock-down, drag-out battle, Spidey's much greater strength would likely prevail. Although DD's senses and superb use of his billy club could even the odds. Hopefully, we'll never see them hurt each other.

I mentioned crime lords earlier, and that's yet another thread drawing the two do-gooders together. There is one awesome figure in organized crime they both have in common: The Kingpin. It's fascinating to note that whereas the Kingpin originated in *Spider-Man* as a co-creation of Stan Lee and John Romita Sr., he, many years later, became the pivotal villain in DD's mythos. I say that because through Wilson Fisk, Daredevil discovered the all-important figure of pure evil against which he and his actions as a super hero could be measured. Fisk was Daredevil's acid test as he had never been for Spider-Man. You see, there has often been one less-than-flattering comparison made between DD and Spidey that bears repeating: Daredevil is nothing more than a pale imitation of Spider-Man in red pajamas. This is hardly accurate, but does require comment. I can see how a reader of both heroes' titles might come to that superficial assessment. Because of the aforementioned similarities between the two—and

the fact that Spider-Man was conceived first—DD might appear to be sloppy seconds. More than a cursory look proves this false. If we go back to Spider-Man's origin, we see that guilt over his Uncle Ben's death and his sense of great responsibility to use his power for others' benefit motivates him. This is a deep, rich characterization that can't help but resonate in any sensitive reader.

So, how does our scarlet swashbuckler compete with that pedigree? Quite well, actually. It's the death of Matt Murdock's father, prizefighter Battlin' Jack Murdock, at the hands of gangsters that motivates Matt to become the costumed Daredevil for the first time. And what a powerful story of revenge it was. But there's an added element of young Matt's makeup that's absolutely crucial to understanding him. He was schooled to be a lawyer. The law, and by extension, justice, propels him. But justice, as we all know, is often, and paradoxically, stifled by the law. So what's an honest attorney to do? If you're Matt Murdock, you maintain your civilian identity of toiling within the system to see justice done. But at night (or in your off-hours) you don a colorful costume and seek justice through vigilante means. And the seeming contradiction between the two identities creates a dynamic tension that makes you an immensely intriguing, wonderfully complex character second to none in this medium. DD's very name evokes images of dancing on the edge. Plus, he's blind, as is justice. And so, when he and the Spiderguy mix it up, there's enough symbolic weight displaced to flood the cellar. So, while similarities abound between our two principals, their inner demons are very different.

There's a singular bond of trust there, also. DD and Spidey have both unmasked before the other, sharing their greatest secret. I don't believe either has done that with another super hero they've encountered. And this knowledge puts added spice into their frequent forays as a duo.

It's little wonder these two magnificent creations have endured for over thirty years. The synergy between them can be seen so well in their first pairing (reprinted herein) in *Spider-Man* #16. Their battle against the Ringmaster's Circus of Crime is a classic, especially Daredevil's disappearance from the fight when he realizes "Spider-Man needs me about as much as the Hulk needs vitamin pills!" Now that is different. And each of the superb team-ups on the following pages emphasizes a different aspect of the multifaceted relationship that binds two of comics' great loners. Savor these stories, Believer, because it just doesn't get much better.

And now, ladies and gentlemen—direct your attention to the center ring, for the greatest show on earth is about to begin!

Ralph Macchio

1996

BIOGRAPHIES

BILL MANTLO

From the mid-'70s through the late-'80s, Bill Mantlo established himself as one of the most dedicated writers in the comics industry, writing hundreds of stories across dozens of titles, primarily for Marvel Comics.

Mantlo broke into comics as a colorist, but it wasn't long before he was given a crack at writing a fill-in story, a "Sons of the Tiger" story in the black-and-white *Deadly Hands of Kung Fu* magazine, and his true comics talent began to emerge. The quality of his work led to his installation as that book's regular writer, a tenure that included the notable achievement of introducing comics' first Puerto Rican hero, the White Tiger.

After achieving notoriety within the Marvel offices as a guy who could knock out credible fill-in scripts at a moment's notice, Mantlo was given more regular work. One early highlight was his 20-issue tenure on *Iron Man* that began the Golden Avenger's return to prominence. As one might expect from someone with such a volume of work, Mantlo was game to take on projects others dismissed, and he did it with an unfeigned aplomb that elevated the work.

It was on two licensed titles that Mantlo built his legacy. Inspired by a toy given to his son at Christmas, Mantlo lobbied Marvel to adapt Micronauts into an ongoing series. The award-winning epic he spun with artistic luminaries like Michael Golden and Pat Broderick is still highly revered by comics fandom as is his even longer run on *Rom*, wherein he developed a universe filled with Spaceknights, Dire Wraith monsters and outer space intrigue. Other notable credits in Mantlo's career include *Incredible Hulk*, *Alpha Flight* and *Spectacular Spider-Man*.

Just as Mantlo had begun a new career as a public defender with the New York City Legal Aid Society, he was struck by a hit-and-run driver and went into a weeks-long coma from severe head trauma. He has since been under constant medical care. The comics community has led multiple fundraisers to aid in the continuing care of a talented writer who is missed by his many fans.

SAL BUSCEMA

Without a doubt one of comics' most prolific artists, "Our Pal" Sal Buscema joined Marvel in 1968 shortly after his elder brother, John. Tackling inking duties on *Silver Surfer* and *Fantastic Four*, including the all-time classic *Silver Surfer* #4, Buscema quickly graduated to penciling. He was an anchor of the Marvel line in the 1970s with long runs on books like *Captain America*, *Marvel Team-Up* and *The Spectacular Spider-Man* and a 100-plus issue run on *The Incredible Hulk*. Buscema was also behind defining the tone on early issues of *The Defenders*, *Rom* and *The New Mutants*. His career as one of Marvel's most versatile artists lasted throughout the '70s and into the '90s. In 1988, he returned to *The Spectacular Spider-Man* and over the next ten years penciled every issue but two from #134 through #238 (and inked the vast majority as well!) Although he retired in the late '90s, readers can still see his name on comics credits from time to time, including inking work on the cult hit *Spider-Girl*.

JIM MOONEY

A prolific comics artist since the 1940s, Jim Mooney proved nimble enough at penciling and inking that he gained a reputation for both disciplines that kept him in constant employ for decades. Tabbed by his peers with the nickname "Gentleman" Jim for his positive and polite demeanor, he became an artist revered by fans of both DC and Marvel Comics.

Mooney broke into the business working under the tutelage of such luminaries as Will Eisner, Lou Fine and Nick Cardy. He would grow to find his artistic voice alongside peers like George Tuska and Ruben Moreira, freelancing for many of the era's most prominent publishers. As the decade progressed, his work at DC took prominence. Mooney was crafting stories of the Dynamic Duo in both *Batman* and *Detective Comics*, plus Robin stories in *Star-Spangled Comics*. He also drew many of the seminal adventures of Tommy Tomorrow in *Action Comics*. It was while drawing Supergirl in the pages of *Action Comics*, however, that Mooney crafted an enduring legacy with his clean, illustrative take on Superman's cousin.

Mooney worked at DC until 1968, when his bold, streamlined style was called upon to team with John Romita on *The Amazing Spider-Man*. It would be the beginning of a relationship with the web-slinger that would lead to almost two decades of memorable penciling and inking of the character, including *The Spectacular Spider-Man*, *Marvel Team-Up* and the flagship title. Mooney lent his hand to virtually every title Marvel produced in one way or another including noteworthy runs on *Ghost Rider*, *Man-Thing* and *Omega the Unknown*. In 2008, Mooney passed away at the age of 89 after an extended illness.

ELLIOT S! MAGGIN

Elliot S! Maggin made quite a first impression on DC Editor Julie Schwartz, who in 1971 likened the maturity of the 20-year-old's first scripting effort—the Green Arrow story "What Can One Man Do?"—to the earliest writing efforts of Ray Bradbury. With Schwartz and superstar artist Neal Adams behind him, Maggin was immediately drafted into an ongoing writer's role with DC. His first Superman story—"Must There Be a Superman?" inspired by a concept from Maggin's 12-year-old pal, Jeph Loeb—would become one of the most beloved Superman stories of all time. From 1972 to 1976, Maggin was a prolific writer on *Superman*, *Action Comics* and *Shazam!* He teamed up Robin and Batgirl in the first issue of *Batman Family* and contributed stories to *Justice League of America*, *Wonder Woman*, *The Joker* and *Detective Comics*. A very brief output for Marvel in 1977 included stories in *The Spectacular Spider-Man*, *The Incredible Hulk* and an adaptation of *The Iliad* for *Marvel Classics Comics*. In addition to his comics writing, the Brandeis- and Columbia School of Journalism-educated Maggin filed stories with *The Village Voice*, *Los Angeles Times* and many other publications, taught in public school and raised horses in New Hampshire. It was in that state that Maggin ran for Congress in 1984, losing out in the Democratic primary. He would later be his party's

candidate in the New York State Assembly District 19 race, though he would again be unsuccessful in winning. In the late '80s, Maggin returned to DC, once again writing *Superman*. His credits also include novelizations of the adventures of Superman in *Last Son of Krypton*, *Miracle Monday* and a prose adaptation of *Kingdom Come*. At Marvel in the late '90s, Maggin wrote stories for *Generation X* and *X-Men Adventures*.

FRANK MILLER

One of the boldest voices of a generation that pushed American comics into new creative and literary frontiers, Frank Miller broke into comics in 1978 illustrating stories in *Twilight Zone*, *Weird War Tales* and *John Carter, Warlord of Mars*. A Will Eisner acolyte ready to challenge the mainstream, Miller quickly moved on from short stories and single issues. With only his fifth Marvel credit, he took over as penciler on *Daredevil*. Teamed with inker/colorist Klaus Janson, Miller developed a dark and gritty world that brought the series back to its Hell's Kitchen roots. Miller's *Daredevil* was revolutionary, reintroducing pulp and crime genre elements into comics. Eleven issues into his run, Miller took over as writer and introduced the Greek assassin/love interest Elektra, who grew to become a major character in her own right.

As his *Daredevil* tenure came to a close in 1982, Miller penciled Wolverine's first solo series before moving to DC for the creator-owned *Ronin*. He returned to *Daredevil* in 1986 as writer of the acclaimed "Born Again" with artist David Mazzucchelli. Meanwhile, Miller was also making history at DC. He reunited with Janson to write and draw the landmark graphic novel *Batman: The Dark Knight Returns*. Depicting the resurgence of a retired, middle-aged Batman, *Dark Knight* pulled no punches in exploring the character and the era's politics. The resultant acclaim brought new literary regard to the medium and Miller's take still influences the character today. Miller returned to the Daredevil mythos again by scribing the *Daredevil: Love and War* graphic novel and *Elektra: Assassin*, both painted by Bill Sienkiewicz.

After writing the seminal origin story *Batman: Year One*, Miller began a relationship with the upstart independent publisher Dark Horse. There, he wrote *Hard Boiled*, *Give Me Liberty*, *Big Guy and Rusty the Boy Robot* and *RoboCop vs. The Terminator*, which parlayed from his scriptwriting the *RoboCop 2* and *RoboCop 3* movie sequels. He also launched his crime series *Sin City* in *Dark Horse Presents*, which Miller has since co-directed with Robert Rodriguez in two feature film adaptations. In the meantime, Miller again revisited Marvel and Daredevil with the *Elektra Lives Again* graphic novel and the five-issue origin retelling *Daredevil: The Man Without Fear*. Miller's success at the movies with *Sin City* led to his graphic novel *300* being adapted into a blockbuster, and he also directed *The Spirit*. A recent return to DC resulted in *Batman: The Dark Knight Strikes Again* and *All Star Batman & Robin, the Boy Wonder*. At the 2015 Eisner Awards, Miller was inducted into the Comic Book Hall of Fame.

FRANK SPRINGER

A native of Jamaica, Queens, Frank Springer enjoyed a long, prolific and versatile career as a penciler and inker in comics, cartoon strips and magazine art. Upon graduation from Syracuse University in 1952, he served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War as a mapmaker. He returned to civilian life in 1954 and started a career as a freelance artist. During the '50s, he apprenticed under cartoonist George Wunder on *Terry and the Pirates*. In 1962, he broke into the comic industry at the dawning of its Silver Age. He made a name for himself at Dell, drawing many of their titles including *Brain Boy*, *Ghost Stories*, *Tales From the Tomb* and *Toka: Jungle King*. After a brief turn at DC, where he illustrated a 1967 issue of *Batman*, Springer settled into a more involved relationship with Marvel. He succeeded Jim Steranko on *Nick Fury, Agent of S.H.I.E.L.D.* and drew a pair of *Captain Marvel* issues. He returned to Marvel in the '80s for long runs inking *She-Hulk*, penciling the initial four-issue *Transformers* miniseries and drawing almost the entire run of *Dazzler*. He even wrote three issues of the series, his sole writing credits in his many years in comics. Outside comics, Frank drew more adult strip fare in *Playboy*, *The Adventures of Pussycat* and *Evergreen Review*. Springer retired to the Maine coast in 1995, pursuing (in his words) the "mysteries of oil painting." He passed away in Maine in 2009 at the age of 79.

MIKE ZECK

Born in Greenville, Pennsylvania, and raised in Florida, Mike Zeck attended the Ringling School of Art in Sarasota to study illustration. Showing his portfolio at conventions earned him a break providing text-story illustrations for Charlton Comics. That modest start led to work at Marvel, where his first story was a 1977 Thanos backup story in *Logan's Run* #6. He would soon join writer Doug Moench on *Shang-Chi: Master of Kung Fu*, a real treat for the artist, a true Bruce Lee fan. Both readers and editors took note and Zeck's four years drawing Shang-Chi led to a highly regarded stint on *Captain America* with J.M. DeMatteis. By the mid-'80s, Zeck was also contributing covers for Marvel's *G.I. Joe: A Real American Hero* and its sister title, *G.I. Joe Special Missions*, as well as illustrations for *The Official Handbook of the Marvel Universe*. His clean, precise style and compelling storytelling elevated him to renown as one of the industry's top talents. This was never more apparent than in 1984, when Zeck was tapped by Marvel editor in chief Jim Shooter to draw comics' first mega-event: *Marvel Super-Heroes Secret Wars*. He followed that up with the art on the first *Punisher* series, a five-issue blockbuster scribed by Stephen Grant, with whom Zeck would reunite for the 1989 Punisher graphic novel *Return to Big Nothing*. Zeck finished out 1986 with a double-sized *Captain America Annual* co-starring Wolverine, then embarked on illustrating "Kraven's Last Hunt" in *Amazing Spider-Man*, *Web of Spider-Man* and *Spectacular Spider-Man*. Written by Cap collaborator DeMatteis, the storyline was a massive hit and stands as one of the evergreen stories in the Spider-Man canon. By the end of the '80s, Zeck had moved to DC, drawing covers to *Batman*, *Detective Comics*, and *Deathstroke the Terminator* among many others. His last regular series work was the Image title *The Damned* with Steven Grant. Zeck launched his own website in 1999 to handle his commission work and continues an active appearance schedule at conventions.

Biographies researched and written by John Rhett Thomas

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As the Great Depression wore on and the specter of war hung over America, a new storytelling medium was born: the comic book. Within their four-color pages, larger-than-life super heroes could make short work of America's foes, giving readers of all ages hope for victory against the real-life enemies that faced the United States. At the forefront of this new medium was Timely Comics, a young company staffed by such legendary creators as Carl Burgos, Bill Everett, Joe Simon, Jack Kirby and Stan Lee. These trailblazing talents birthed a vast array of characters that would give rise to the Marvel Universe!

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THE ATLAS ERA

Seeing super heroes waning, Timely Comics evolved into Atlas Comics and took on a vast new range of genres: science-fiction tales of outer space adventures; realistic war comics; buxom jungle heroines; horror comics that would become the center of a moral panic that rocked the industry; and romance comics for the emerging teen audience. Even the classic costumed heroes of the Golden Age retooled to take on the threat of Communism. From Western gunfighters to crime to horror, the Atlas Era had it all!

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ATLAS ERA TALES TO ASTONISH VOLS. 1-4
ATLAS ERA TALES OF SUSPENSE VOLS. 1-4
ATLAS ERA VENUS VOL. 1

THE MARVEL AGE

In August 1961, change hit newsstands: *The Fantastic Four* #1 did not feature the squeaky-clean heroes of yesteryear. They were real characters placed in extraordinary circumstances. They lived together, they fought among themselves — and sometimes, they even lost to the bad guys. This was more than a change in attitude: It was the beginning of something entirely different — the beginning of the Marvel Age of Comics!

Thanks to the fertile imaginations of Stan Lee, Jack Kirby, Steve Ditko and others, an unending list of heroes followed the FF with ever-increasing acclaim and popularity: the Amazing Spider-Man, the Mighty Thor, the Incredible Hulk, Daredevil, Iron Man and the X-Men, to name but a few. These were the Marvel heroes, born of conflict and a continuous struggle to balance human lives with superhuman responsibilities.

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THE MIGHTY THOR VOLS. 1-17
MS. MARVEL VOLS. 1-2
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RAWHIDE KID VOLS. 1-2
THE SAVAGE SHE-HULK VOLS. 1-2
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